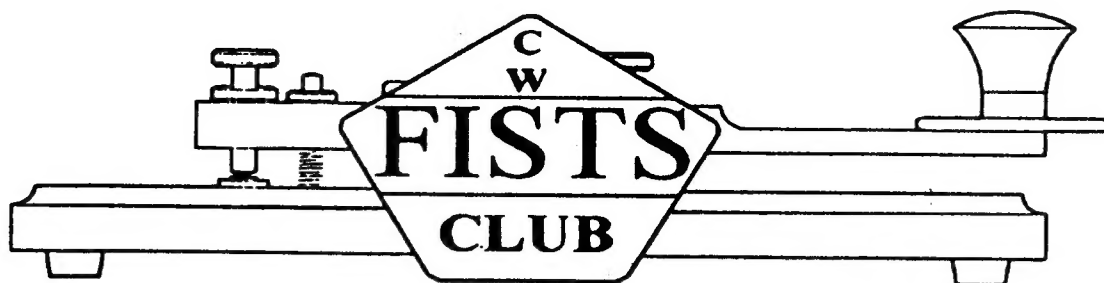


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

Do you have a question? Look here first!

HOW DO I...?

***JOIN?** Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions = **\$15.00/year**. Under 17 = **FREE** College Students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. **Send to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440** **NOTE: CHECKS can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received.**

Nancy processes them, updating the database, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. **Questions?** Write to nancy@tir.com Phone number is 810-797-2033.

***RENEW?** Send **\$15/year** or \$10/year for college students (under 17 and family members are free) to **FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047**. Your renewal date is on your mailing label — please look at it!! We send out ONE renewal postcard when your renewal time is near. If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a few weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

*** GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB?** Clubs with FCC callsigns may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge.

***PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, is \$10/year American cash. Non-European (Africa, Japan, etc.) FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo.

***SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB3 2LZ England, he will get in touch with them and send them a DX application.

***SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A North American FRIEND?** For a brochure, email Joe Pardue, w5os@arri.net with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are available for downloading on our FISTS webpage <http://www.fists.org>.

***UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALLSIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE?** Send corrections or changes to NancyKott WZ8C at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

***GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page, <http://www.fists.org>

***Get on the FISTS Email List?** For periodic Email updates send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton at FISTS-Elist@attbi.com. Due to potential spam problems, the list is not given out to the membership and is not published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your email address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

*** ORDER SUPPLIES? NEW PRICING STARTING FEBRUARY 2003:** Irene Kott, WO8E is our Supply Manager. Her address is 44609 N.Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible. Metallic gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; **NEW** "I (heart) CW" 3/4 inch round stickers 200 for \$3.50. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50;

Blue enamel cloisonne /gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" logo pin with tie-tack type pin-back 1" x 1 1/8" octagon \$1.50 **NEW White** enamel cloisonne pin " I (red heart graphic) CW", "FISTS CW Club" along edge; 3/4" diameter circle \$1.50 Rubber stamp of FISTS logo to use with an ink pad (not included) \$5.00; Embroidered patch with key logo \$1; Art&Skill of Telegraphy \$11.50; **ALL PRICES INCLUDE FIRST CLASS OR PRIORITY POSTAGE PLEASE DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL**

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR: NANCY KOTT WZ8C

Net Information

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday and Thursday 9PM EST on 3.682

Slow RagChewing Group: Wednesday at 9PM EST on 3.720

Volunteer Net Controls needed to run the Century Net on Sunday afternoon on 14.058 MHz

***Saturday QSO Groups:* 2000Z on 14.058 MHz and 7.058 MHz at 2300Z.**

***Sunday Slow Speed Chat:* 21.158 MHz at 1700Z**

Keep watch on the Novice subbands and frequencies ending in .x58 but PLEASE spread out. There have been over 9000 FISTS numbers issued. If we all try and chat on just these frequencies, all anyone will get is a lot of QRM. Please be courteous of nets and QSOs in progress and ask if the frequency is busy before calling CQ.

Courtesy At All Times!

Please note that FISTS subs rate hasn't gone up thru numerous postal hikes. Help us keep costs down by sending in your renewals early and letting Nancy, WZ8C know your address changes.

It costs FISTS 70 cents for each undelivered or forwarded Keynote due to address changes. This really adds up!

Combo Issue 5-6 2003

Hello FISTS! The cooler weather is signaling the start of the contest season ...that means the C2C Event and the Fall Sprint!

This is being mailed the first week of September (hopefully on the 4th) so you should get it in time for the C2C reminder. If you don't get your newsletter in a timely fashion, please say something to your postmaster. They have a form - my postmaster tells me it should be available on the counter of the post office - you may have to ask for it, but it is created specifically for complaints about slow bulk mail delivery.

Bulk delivery is up to the discretion of the mailman. It has to be delivered, of course, but they can wait until a 'slow mail day' and the bags can languish in the mail room for days, even a week or so before they are delivered. I am sure I will hear from postal employees disputing this, but that is what my postmaster told me.

Most of the delivery is excellent, but some FISTS have a real problem and don't get their newsletter until 4 or 5 weeks after it's mailed. If you can't find the complaint form at your post office, or don't want to ask for one, send me an SASE and I'll mail one to you. It's very frus-

trating for me to hear delivery complaints when there isn't anything I can do about it, except for a wrong address, of course.

On July 4, the World Radio Conference signed an agreement eliminating the International requirement for Morse code testing. This means that individual countries can decide whether or not to have a code requirement. The FCC makes the rules and will leave it as it is now unless petitioned otherwise. It's just a matter of time until the no-coders petition the FCC to eliminate the code requirement for all ham license classes.

The blue voting cards I mailed to the membership are starting to avalanche in with an overwhelming YES - RETAIN THE REQUIREMENT vote. Be prepared to WRITE the FCC and ARRL about your feelings when the time comes. I will do my best to keep you informed via the newsletter, email and special mailings. In this issue is an excellent paper written by FISTS member Andrew Roos.

I am thinking of having a FISTS booth at the Peoria Hamfest Sept 19-20. If you are able to help me out at the booth please get in touch with me ASAP. 73 88, Nancy WZ8C

FISTS CW Club

Page 3

Welcome to the New FISTS

| # | callsign | First | State | sponsor | # | Call | Name | QTH | Sponsor |
|-------|----------|--------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|--------------------|-----|---------|
| 10133 | KG6LHJ | Alicia | CA | KD6LM | 10178 | NC2F | Dennis | NY | |
| 10134 | K6XG | Dave | CA | KD6LM | 10179 | AA8R | Randy | MI | |
| 10135 | WA4DWW | John | VA | K4YKI | 10180 | K8TJ | Tim | MI | |
| 10136 | KC2FXH | Bob | NJ | WA2TWS | 10181 | N5PHT | Gary | TX | K4PTU |
| 10137 | AK7Y | Greg | AZ | | 10182 | KB2PEL | Bob | WV | |
| 10138 | K2EKM | Bill | VA | | 10183 | K6XR | REggie | CA | |
| 10139 | W2GER | Gerry | NJ | KA4RLN | 10184 | KA7YOI | Gary | WA | K7ZPE |
| 10140 | KW3F | Bob | PA | | 10185 | KD5VRJ | Mitch | TX | |
| 10141 | AE4R | Mike | VA | K3MT | 10186 | K7KY | Jon | NV | |
| 10142 | VE7RBN | Robin | BC | | 10187 | N5GLR | Garry | TX | |
| 10143 | WS0W | Kevin | CO | | 10188 | WB6JNY | John | CA | |
| 10144 | KC2AQN | Dave | NJ | | 10189 | N4ILV | Dennis | NC | W7RVR |
| 10145 | K9PB | Pete | IL | | 10190 | KF1G | Leroy | ME | |
| 10146 | KC8VCB | Sam | WV | | 10191 | KD5MQX | Lars | TX | |
| 10147 | KG4WIL | John | FL | KK4AD | 10192 | pending | Tomasz | WI | AA9XH |
| 10148 | W2IRU | Hank | NY | W6DDB | 10193 | KQ9L | Rich | IL | |
| 10149 | W3MT | Moe | PA | KA4IFF | 10194 | AG4YO | Charlie | FL | |
| 10150 | KC8VC | Mich-A-Con | MI | K8DDB | 10195 | KM2Y | Joe | NJ | |
| 10151 | KC0JDD | Dale | IA | | 10196 | W7UJ | Ed | WA | W6AEA |
| 10152 | WD0HHK | Larry | IA | | 10197 | W4SEWN | Emmett | NY | |
| 10153 | VE3XDB | Doug | ON | | 10198 | N7YT | Bill | WA | |
| 10154 | K4CCW | Laurel | VA | K3XI | 10199 | K3ASK | Andrew | MD | |
| 10155 | AA3UV | Don | PA | N6RNP | 10200 | W1AW | ARRL HQ | CT | |
| 10156 | N0XM | Mike | KS | | 10201 | W1MJB | Marty | MA | |
| 10157 | K8RLS | Robert | OH | | 10202 | W3NJZ | Fred | PA | |
| 10158 | NA4O | Mark | GA | | 10203 | W3TNU | Rabe | PA | |
| 10159 | WA6CKO | Wesley | CA | | 10204 | N7TXH | Rick | AZ | |
| 10160 | N7DLS | Dan | TN | N4KN | 10205 | WB8AGV | Rob | FL | |
| 10161 | N6WTJ | Todd | CA | WF6W | 10206 | WX7H | Stan | ID | VE7RBN |
| 10162 | NE8M | Bryan | MI | | 10207 | K2JWJ | Roland | NY | WB2FXK |
| 10163 | KU8T | Thomas | IN | WB2FXK | 10208 | W5DLP | David | TX | WB2FXK |
| 10164 | K0ZYA | John | WI | | 10209 | K6VL | Richard | CA | WA9PWP |
| 10165 | W2MJN | Michael | NY | | 10210 | W2VEX | Norm | NY | W2IRU |
| 10166 | K6TOB | Richard | CA | | 10211 | KD5UZJ | Billy | NM | |
| 10167 | KB6R | Robert | CA | | 10212 | KC0OSB | Sidney | CO | |
| 10168 | KC8UDB | Bob | OH | | 10213 | W6TU | Bill | CA | W6VIF |
| 10169 | KD5CQX | Reggie | MS | | 10214 | KS4WX | Hank | GA | WZ8C |
| 10170 | KO4OO | George | GA | WB2FXK | 10215 | VE2PID | Pierre | QE | |
| 10171 | VE3GHZ | Ralph | ON | | 10216 | N4UXA | Bryan | VA | |
| 10172 | K3FKW | Ken | PA | | 10217 | N0AB | Gordon | KS | |
| 10173 | VA3KWS | Ken | ON | N9BOR | 10218 | KK7EM | Jim | OR | KB7FYZ |
| 10174 | K4PMT | Huey | FL | | 10219 | KD5MNT | Tom | LA | |
| 10175 | K0EFD | Ellicott fire dept | CO | WU3H | 10225 | K8LGN | Hocking Valley ARC | OH | W8LXC |
| 10176 | WA2WQT | RUSS | NJ | | 10250 | W8EOC | Medina2 Mtr | OH | K8NVR |
| 10177 | WA2JCP | MARTIN | PA | K4UK | 10275 | WB5NET | SE LA Club | LA | KD5MDO |

FISTS AWARDS
By Dennis K6DF

There are now four National FISTS Club
Stations that are worth 5 points each.

They are: **GXØPIX, KNØWCW,**
VK2FDU, and ZL6FF.

My e-mail address has changed. Please
note the new awards e-mail address.

fistsawards@comcast.net

Please send your FISTS awards logs to
the new address.

Be sure to put "cwclub" in the title of
your Email.

Not much else to report for awards this
issue, so keep banging the brass and
send those logs in for your awards. C U
on the bands . . . if they ever
improve! 73, Dennis K6DF

==.-.-.-==

AWARDS ISSUED - May 24, 2003 to
July 23, 2003

Basic Century (CC)

AA7VW
AB9HE
G3MNS
HP1IBF
K0MAX
K4NVJ
K4OP
K4REB
KB1AF
KD5ATE
KD7PEV
KG4RRT
KH6HHS
KR3I
M0CNU
N2KZ
N3PXF
N4OI
N5XZ
NC0A
VA3AVP
W3HZW

WA9WME
WP4KGR

Silver Century

GM4ELV
K4YKI
K7UIE
N4GE
WB4HUL

Gold Century

9A4RC
KA9DVX
KA9F
KC2AIO
WB7RHT

Diamond Century

KC0JKD
VA3BWT
W7PFZ
WB9WZN

1 X QRP Award

K0MAX

Platinum Award

AB0JB
G3GUR
K7UIE
KG4NNN
N4ACF
W0CGV
W8LTX
WB4HUL

Platinum 250 Award

K4YKI
VA3BWT
WA2BQI

RCC Award

VE2OI

Club Call Achievement

K4UK
NX2GW

Coast 2 Coast Event

The purpose of this event is to contact as many FISTS clubs as possible using CW only.

1. Contest dates — Sunday September 14th 0000 - 2400 ZULU Clubs will operate to their own schedules. They are not required to be on the air the entire 24 hours of the event.

2. Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. We encourage Clubs to use the Novice segments also. No WARC bands. Each first QSO with a different Club gives a point multiplier to your total number of QSOs. See examples below.

3. Only FISTS clubs will call — “CQ C2C”

4. Exchange — Clubs and operators exchange the following elements:

FISTS Members and Clubs: RST, Name, State (or 2 character prefix if DX), and FISTS number. (Clubs: Send only your club's FISTS number.)

? U.S. Example: 579, Stan, VA, 2934

? DX Example: 599, Ralph, ZL, 9600

? Non-FISTS: RST, Name, State, and Power (be sure to suffix with 'W').

? U.S. Example: 459, Bill, OR, 50W

? DX Example: 569, Yuri, UA, 100W

5. Scoring: - 1 point for each club worked on each band, once per band (which means a maximum of 5 points for any club since there are 5 bands available). For each individual club worked, you accrue one multiplier point. To calculate your final score, multiply the total number of C2C QSOs times your multiplier points. Examples (assuming 30 clubs participate):

1. You had 20 club QSOs total. Those 20 QSOs were with 12 of the participating clubs (remembering that only one club QSO per band counts). Your final score is your multiplier, 12, times the total QSOs, $20 = 12 \times 20 = 240$ C2C points. You qualify for the Silver C2C Certificate.

2. You worked 15 clubs. 10 of those clubs you worked on one band, 5 you worked on 2 bands. Your total QSOs are $10 + (5 \times 2) = 20$ QSOs. Since you worked 15 clubs total, your final score is $15 \times 20 = 300$ C2C points. You qualify for the Gold C2C Certificate.

3. You worked 20 clubs once on one of the 5 bands. You got an additional 25 club QSOs on other bands than the first band you worked them on. Your multiplier is then 20 and you made 45

club QSOs total. Your final score is 20 times 45 = 900 C2C points. You qualify for the Platinum C2C Certificate. Remember, if you worked a club on one band, you can't count a QSO with that club again on the same band.

4. Club operators count any exchange with another club to your club and personal QSO count. For example, if you are operating your club call and are called by another club, both club operators count the QSO for both their club and their home calls without having to use their home calls in the QSO. This rule is intended to reward our club volunteer ops without the need for confusing “double-call QSOs” or separate QSOs while you are on duty.

5. Note that you cannot apply any C2C points to your personal points for the purposes of obtaining other FISTS awards (e.g. Century) unless you used your own call during the QSO [according to FIST Awards Co-ordinator, K6DF]

QSLs and Awards

All participating Clubs will handle their own logging and QSLs. Please do NOT submit QSLs or logs to claim a C2C Certificate. Please QSL to Club contacted only (NOT to the contest organisers or FISTS HQ)! 2. All contacts with Clubs will count toward regular FISTS awards as applicable. Special Coast-to-Coast certificates will be awarded to all participants who work the following number of clubs (NOTE: log submittal is NOT required):

A minimum of 5 Clubs — Bronze Certificate
For contact of 10 Clubs — Silver Certificate
For contact of 15 Clubs — Gold Certificate
For contact of 20 Clubs — Platinum Certificate

Your certificate will be endorsed with the total number of C2C points you earned according to the multiplier rule above.

Point totals will be reported in the Keynote for informational purposes after the event.

Thanks for your continued support and enthusiasm for Morse code...the original digital mode!!

Paul Beringer NG7Z fistsc2c@yahoo.com
C2C Chairman

Paul Davis AC7QG Co-chairman

Casey Bahr KS7J Chairman Emeritus

Combo Issue 5-6 2003

QRP With John Shannon K3WWP

Welcome to column #59 of *QRP With K3WWP*. Some time ago I received some interesting info about using military surplus equipment for operating QRP. I had my columns planned out at the time and was unable to get to that topic until now, so here goes.

The information was supplied by WD8MGO, Fred Lehman, who wrote: "Good Morning John, I just wanted to tell you that I look forward to reading your column in every issue. You mention about using full-band radios for QRP work but what about Military Surplus? I have used the GRC-109, which is a transmitter/receiver and power supply combination once in my apartment. Very good receiver with Collins Mechanical Filters.

"Military Surplus friends of mine have also used the PRC-64A which was built by Delco and came in two versions. The first being crystal the second being synthesized.

"Another radio was the TRC-77 which by QRP standards was ahead of its time for the early 1960's. Using tubes and transistors this radio had a very low power consumption (used by forward units).

"Also Military Manpacks such as the Datron/Transworld PRC-1099 can be used on CW, as well as the Commercial Vertex 1200 and 1210. Other commercial sets include the Q-MAC, Barret and Tadiran. Many of these sets cross over into the HF Pack category (which many of collector friends hang out). I would be very interested to know how many FISTS members are using Military/Commercial equipment?

"Maybe food for thought or an article?"

Yes, it was good food and I wrote back to Fred asking him to list some sources of military surplus gear for those who read this and may be interested in trying it themselves. I only knew offhand of Fair Radio in Ohio which I had dealt with in the past. Fred replied with the following list:

ARMY RADIOS SALES-UK - <http://www.armyradio.co.uk/>
COLUMBIA ELECTRONICS INT'L, INC. <http://www.columbiaelectronics.com/>

COMBAT RADIO UK - <http://www.combatradio.org.uk/>
COMMOCENTRA - <http://www.commocentral.com>
HELMUT SINGER ELEKTRONIK - <http://www.helmut-singer.de/fix.she.html>
MURPHY'S SUPRPLUS - <http://www.murphyjunk.bizland.com/murphys-surplus/index.html>
SURPLUS MILITARY RADIO - <http://home.hetnet.nl/~angrynine/>
TECMP SURPLUS - <http://www.tecnosurplus.com/>
TORONTO SURPLUS & SCIENTIFIC INC - <http://www.torontosurplus.com/>
MILRADIO - <http://www.milradio.com/>

Fred also added, "In addition, I shop for Military Surplus at the hamfests I attend. At HAMVENTION a group of us collectors have two nets: The 3885 Net (3885Khz) using BC-611s (similar radios seen in the movie Wind Talkers). And The Cold War Net where operators check in with such radios as PRC-10, PRC-25, PRC-77, PRC-68, PRC-68A (Primary mode is WBFM on 51MHz). I hope I was of some help?"

That is an intriguing way to go the QRP route. It brought back some memories for me when a lot more surplus gear was being used on the ham bands. That was back in the early 1960's when I first got my ham ticket as KN3WWP. While I never used military surplus gear myself, I did buy some surplus parts for projects I built. That was from Fair Radio I mentioned earlier. Their website is <http://www.fairradio.com> and they take email requests for a free hard copy catalog.

Since Fred is the expert on the material contained in this column, any questions should be directed to him at lehman_fred@hotmail.com or Fred Lehman, 5911 Lake Ave., Greenville, OH 45331.

As usual, you can contact me for any non-Military surplus comments or questions at johnshan@alltel.net, home.alltel.net/johnshan/ or John H. Shannon - K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201. Till next time, 73. -30-

FISTS Spring Sprint, 2003 Results

Hello all,

Well, the bands just did not make it easy for the Spring Sprint this year.

We still had a great showing, and it was nice to see all the new 5 digit FISTS numbers.

Hope you all had fun! See you all on the air! 73 Dan, N8IE FISTS #4985

QRO Catagory

| Call | Name | SPC | FISTS# | Total |
|--------|---------|-----|--------|-------|
| AD6XI | Josh | Ca | 9341 | 14790 |
| W5TA | Dick | Tx | 7889 | 13920 |
| KC0M | Larry | Md | 2528 | 12300 |
| K4IA | Craig | Va | 6702 | 12096 |
| WD9EMF | Vic | Il | 8574 | 11880 |
| WB0PYF | Ray | Mo | 7986 | 10584 |
| K6ENT | Kent | Ca | 7885 | 10261 |
| K4BAI | John | Ga | 2158 | 9672 |
| W5AC | Dennis | Tx | N/A | 8532 |
| K8LFY | Bob | Ok | 7866 | 8100 |
| K9PL | Philip | Il | 6753 | 5428 |
| K8NVR | Ed | Oh | 7957 | 5375 |
| NG7Z | Paul | | 5368 | 5236 |
| K7KJ | Greg | Or | 8686 | 5112 |
| W4DON | Donald | Nc | 3936 | 4620 |
| KB6NU | Dan | Mi | 9342 | 4488 |
| K8CI | Richard | Oh | 5270 | 4389 |
| AA0YY | Mark | Mo | 2948 | 4116 |
| N3RSD | Frank | De | 2411 | 3240 |
| N4RE | Rick | Nc | 8806 | 3129 |
| W7SW | Scotty | Ca | N/A | 2975 |
| K8VFR | Rose | Mi | 5602 | 2704 |
| WB2FXK | Jack | Ny | 918 | 2655 |
| AE2L | Josh | Nc | 1912 | 1800 |
| W9UQB | Mike | Az | 3687 | 1703 |
| WB2WGX | Rich | Ny | 6853 | 1391 |
| WB8RFB | John | Mi | 6844 | 1352 |
| KG9LZ | Tom | Il | 5769 | 1170 |
| K0LWV | Larry | Mo | 2589 | 1020 |
| VE3KLM | Frank | Ont | 3232 | 900 |
| W8GAC | John | Oh | 4043 | 770 |
| K4UK | Stan | Va | 2934 | 496 |
| AB8NI | Dennis | Oh | 8657 | 329 |
| KH6HE | Alex | Hi | 7423 | 282 |
| N7EIE | Leroy | Wa | 9926 | 225 |
| K9LCK | James | Wi | 5473 | 210 |
| WA3NSR | Robert | Md | 3396 | 140 |
| N3AXB | JJ | Va | 8296 | 108 |
| KE3CR | Giles | De | 4192 | 90 |

QRP Catagory

| Call | Name | SPC | FISTS# | Total |
|--------|--------|-----|--------|-------|
| KG5U | Dale | Tx | 5880 | 17816 |
| K7RE | Bruce | Sd | 8113 | 14016 |
| W3BBO | Bob | Pa | 3232 | 3420 |
| W5KDJ | Wayne | Tx | 10060 | 3349 |
| KG4IKQ | Jim | Nc | 7590 | 2520 |
| KG6CYN | Trevor | Ca | 7814 | 2448 |
| W5IBZ | Lou | Tx | 7257 | 1128 |
| W5IBZ | Lou | Tx | 7257 | 1128 |
| W0UFO | Mert | Mn | 3823 | 1100 |
| WB6BWZ | Matt | Ga | 8652 | 738 |
| WN4M | Greg | Tn | 7056 | 585 |
| W3ZMN | Conrad | Pa | 8634 | 360 |
| WA5ZJK | Glenn | Tx | 4978 | 329 |
| WY7W | Tom | Az | 9290 | 282 |
| K4YKI | Norm | Ky | 2166 | 270 |

Club Catagory

| Call | Name | SPC | FISTS# | Club Name | Total |
|---|-------|-----|--------|--------------------------------|-------|
| N4BP | Bob | Fl | N/A | FL Contest Group | 29094 |
| (note: N4BP has a FISTS number, but the FL Contest Group does not, so it does not count as club points toward Century awards) | | | | | |
| K5PTC | Bob | Tx | 9725 | Pesky Texan 'test Club | 22372 |
| NJ2BB | Joe | Nj | 9262 | Battleship NJ ARS | 4074 |
| KC7EQW | Bruce | Ca | 8675 | Imperial Valley ARC | 3760 |
| N5FFF | Wayne | | 9250 | Red Stick Fists Club | 2880 |
| KG4VLC | Bruce | Sc | 9450 | FISTS CW Club of the Carolinas | 2754 |
| K5TCC | Doc | Tx | 7400 | Tarrant County College Club | 2414 |
| NK3ST | Nick | Md | 6600 | USS Torsk ARC | 2142 |
| W3IYQ | John | | 8500 | E.L. "Doc" Sielke Memorial | 1210 |

Spring Sprint Soapbox

Giles, KE3CR, DE, FISTS #4192

Twice I blew info with N4BP and didn't realize it at the time. Only thing heard on 15 meters was Birdie at 21.045 (always hear that hi!!) 20 was to full so 40 was all that was left. QRN was bad!!! But getting fairly honest RST's for once, not the usual 599! 73, Giles

Craig, K4IA, VA, FISTS #6702 Terrible conditions. Worst I have seen. Not 1 DX station and very weak signals with lots of QSB. But 30 new FISTS points.

Larry, KC0M, MD, FISTS #2528 I had a great time. I appreciate the time and effort everyone puts into the club.

Lou, W5IBZ, TX, FISTS #7257 First contest I ever went all the way. Enjoyed the good operators.

Ray, WB0PYF, MD, FISTS #7986 Sprint started out here with heavy rain and lots of QRN, then cleared up and had a ball. Thanks for the fun time as always.

Rich, WB2WGX, NY FISTS #6853 The bands were pretty lousy for the SPrint, but I managed to get 15 new numbers and 3 new FISTS states anyway. I was only able to operate the first two hours, so I guess I did alright. 73's Rich

Dan, KB6NU, MI FISTS #9342 I should have switched to 40M sooner! Next time I'll make an electronic submission. 73! Dan

Stan, K4UK, OH FISTS #2934 Ran the Elecraft K2 at 14 watts QRO, while visiting my Mother-in-law in Madison, Ohio. Conditions were very poor and activity was quite low. I did pick up 2 new ones for my NANFA grid. I shared the rig with JJ, N3AXB. I had noticed the announcement in QST which said the Sprint would be from 1700-2100Z on May 11 was wrong.

JJ, N3AXB/8, OH FISTS #8296 Ran the Elecraft K2 from K4UK's mobile. Conditions were very poor.

Norman, K4YKI, KY FISTS #2166 "Some days are diamonds some days are coal" Worked 1-1/2 hours and had to ground everything out for a strong line of thunderstorms nearing. If I hear thunder, I close down! Once burned, twice shy! 73, Norm Thanks again for your service to FISTS.

Mert, W0UFO, MN FISTS #3823 K1 at 5 watts to a 20M dipole up 25 feet. 40M Zepp fed random wire.

Leroy, N7EIE, WA FISTS #9926 This was my first Sprint, and I had just put up a 20 meter dipole. Good thing too, 8 of my 9 contacts were on 20M, mostly to the Mid-West. Looking forward to July!

Scotty, W7SW Great fun, thanks for all the enjoyable contacts and 73!

Jack, WB2FXK, NY FISTS #918 Can't believe in 4 hours, not find WZ8C or W0SE and other O.T. Glad to find a couple through lots of QRN from storms, made for lots of fun. (Nancy note: I WAS THERE!!)

Alex, KH6HE, HI FISTS #7423 15M only band open during contest. Had to go to work.

Larry, K0LWV, MO FISTS #2589 Poor conditions, stations weak, activity poor, got bored and quit early.

Don, W4DON, NC FISTS #3936 Conditions poor, lots of QSB. :-(

Tom, WY7W, AZ FISTS #9290 I was only able to work part of the Sprint and had fun doing QRP. Looking forward to the next one!

DOC, K5TCC, TX FISTS #7400 Although 15 was open there was very little activity 20 was as usual quite crowded. Ran K2 at 5W to ta33 jr and enjoyed hearing old friends and making new. 73!

Kent, K6ENT, CA FISTS #7885 Always a fun contest that helps to build CW skills. A long exchange reminiscent of the ARRL Sweepstakes exchange.

Bob, K7LFY, I got to the Sprint 45 minutes late - can't read the clock I guess. Activity was good and I spent most of the time on 20 but did try 40-10 meters at some time. Lots of new calls this time - 25 in all so I am closing in on Stan's 1500 FISTS numbers with 1353 now. I would have made about 90-100 QSOs had I been on time which is always my goal in the Sprints. I ended up with 66 or so. Thanks to all the people who organize and report this data - a big job. 73es Bob, K7LFY

Richard, K8CI, OH FISTS #5270 Thunderstorms.....missed almost 3 hours

Dale, KG5U, TX FISTS #5880 Band conditions were not great, but the turnout was very good. This is a good contest to try out new operating procedures and hardware.

Trev, KG6CYN, CA FISTS #7814 Lots of FUN!! 30 QSO's best DX HI (KH6HE), and DE (finally thanks to N3RSD!). Rig here was Elecraft K1 at 5 watts into a Center Fed Zepp hung as a vee up about 45' fed with 450 Ohm window line, matched with a Johnson KW Matchbox. Worked a lot of East Coast and central states on 15 and 20. Strongest signal all day on both bands was Bob N4BP. Well over S9 on both bands. Hope everyone had as much fun as I did and I look forward to the Summer Sprint! 73's Trev KG6CYN

Tom, KG9LZ, IL FISTS #5769 Thanks to each station that worked the contest. It was my pleasure meeting you. New fists are always there for the meeting. The Midwest thunderstorms cleared up in time for the event and didn't return until afterwards. Will be looking forward to the Summer Sprint 2003, when I will operate as KN0WCW/9.

John, W3IYQ, NY FISTS #8500 Conditions pretty poor. At least worked HI on 15. Did worse QRO than I did in the Winter QRP. Almost didn't bother sending log.

Wayne, W5KDJ, TX FISTS #10060 Nice contest met lot of others from previous contest. Props bad. Ran 1 WATT entire test so didn't expect a high score.

Dick, W5TA, TX FISTS #7889 Great fun contest! Managed to double my score from last year even though I could only operate 3 of the 4 hours. 20m was hot. Good to hear so much activity. But, where were some easy states (SC, KY, NE)? Am looking forward to the next one. Dick W5TA

Glenn, WA5ZJK, TX FISTS #4978 Ten and fifteen meters were dead in my area but still had a great time due to all the great ops I worked.

Matt, WB6BWZ, GA FISTS #8652 Yaesu FT-817 QRP xcvr, 5 watts into a 5-MHz OCF 28-gauge insulated wire stealth antenna up 40 feet in heavy-foliage trees next to I-75 in downtown Atlanta industrial area. SGC SG-237 autotuner. WriteLog 10.40j, manual logging, no CAT interface.

John, WB8RFB, MI FISTS #6844 Conditions were absolutely rotten. Heard zip on 15 and 40 Meters and 20 was up and down, but mostly down. Hope things improve for the Summer session.

IT IS TIME FOR THE FALL FISTS SPRINT

The following are the Official Rules for the FISTS SPRINT.

OBJECTIVE:

To exchange specified information with as many FISTS members as possible using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated.

PARTICIPANTS:

Any properly licensed amateur radio operator, FISTS member or non-member is invited to take part in the contest. At least one of the two stations in each QSO must be a FISTS member.

DATE AND TIME:

The Winter SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in February.

The Spring SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in May.

The Summer SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in July.

The Fall SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in October.

Please note times are in UTC, daylight savings time is NOT a factor.

BANDS:

Operation is limited to the following amateur bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands.

Work stations only once per band.

ENTRY CLASSES:

There are three entry classes:

QRO: Over 5 watts output power.

QRP: 5 watts output power or less.

Club: (regardless of power).

Entry class MUST be shown on logs to be considered for entry in a particular class, or will be assumed QRO.

An entry must be ONE class only, no combination of classes is allowed.

EXCHANGE:

The following information must be exchanged by both stations to count as a valid contest QSO:

For FISTS members:

RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, FISTS number.

For non-FISTS members:

RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, Power output.

DX COUNTRY STATUS:

U.S. states and Canadian provinces are those states and provinces that are contiguous and found within the North American continent. DX are those entities listed in the current ARRL DXCC publication, other than the above.

MULTIPLIERS:

Each U.S. State and Canadian province counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

Each DXCC entity counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

SCORING:

Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 points.

Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 points.

Final score is total QSO points times multipliers.

CERTIFICATES:

U.S./VE:

Certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Entry Class.

LOG SUBMISSIONS:

Sending the logs is what counts, and they will be spot checked for accuracy and correct scoring procedures. All log entries must be received 30 days after the Sprint to be considered valid. Logs not sent to the proper address will not be considered for entry.

All logs MUST contain the following information to be considered for entry::

Your name and call sign. Club name if entry is for a club. Your FISTS number if a member.

Entry class. Your claimed score. List of claimed multipliers.

The entry form is the best way to record this information.

Download the entry form as a text file on the web page <http://www.fists.org>

ELECTRONIC LOGS:

We will accept E-logs in standard Cabrillo format, or ascii text files. If your not sure about your format, please contact me before the contest entry deadline.

E-logs are sent to W8PIG@yahoo.com ONLY.

P A P E R L O G S :

Send log and forms to:

Dan Shepherd, N8IE

1900 Pittsfield St.

Kettering, Oh 45420

Why we should retain a Morse code requirement for the unrestricted amateur license

By Andrew Roos, ZS1AN FISTS # 8921 {1}

Introduction

The ITU WRC-03 conference has amended Article 25, removing the mandatory Morse requirement for unrestricted amateur licenses. The revised wording allows each administration to determine for itself whether Morse proficiency should be a requirement for an amateur license.

National amateur radio societies around the world must now recommend to their administrations whether the Morse requirement should be retained. This position paper was prepared for the Council of the South African Radio League to provide reasons why, in my opinion, we should retain a Morse code requirement for the unrestricted amateur license.

It is important to note that this is not the same as arguing that licensees who have not passed a Morse code should be denied all access to the HF bands. I am in favour of granting some access to the HF bands to those holding restricted licenses. However I believe that this should be done by amending the privileges of the restricted license, rather than removing the Morse code requirement of the unrestricted license.

The principle argument will run along the following lines: CW is a useful and popular mode of operation; the education and examination syllabus should include the basic abilities needed to use useful and popular modes; the ability to send and receive Morse code is necessary to operate CW; and therefore the education and examination syllabus should include the ability to send and receive Morse code.

CW is a Useful Mode

In this section I shall establish that CW is a useful mode. I do not claim that it is the “best” or “most useful” mode (whatever that might mean), or that it is more useful than other modes like SSB or the various digital modes. Indeed, I believe that all these modes have their rightful place in amateur radio.

Traffic Volume

I think those who doubt whether CW is useful do so because they fail to look at CW in terms of our objectives as amateurs. Some of the opponents of Morse code testing note that most commercial and some military services no longer use CW, and provide that as “evidence” that the mode is no longer useful, or at least not “best of class”. However commercial and military requirements and constraints are very different from those facing amateurs. For these services, traffic volume is often the most important consideration; there are rarely any power or equipment limitations; bandwidth limitations are less severe than in the amateur bands; good signals can often be assured by the use of very high power transmitters or satellite communications; and skilled operators are considered an unnecessary expense.

However the requirements and constraints facing amateurs are very different, which means

that the optimum mode of communication is also different, and in many cases it is CW.

For example, consider the fallacy of comparing modes by traffic volume. When I listen to amateur stations operating in all modes, the thing that strikes me most is how little information is being communicated by most of them. Not because they are hamstrung by inefficient modes, but because they don't actually have very much to say to each other. There are exceptions of course, but the majority of QSOs consist simply of an exchange of signal reports, name and QTH, station and weather information. Even though I always welcome a rag-chew, and often attempt to encourage the other station to go a bit further than the "standard" items, in many cases my attempts are politely rebuffed. In any case, rag-chews certainly don't stretch the traffic handling capabilities of CW.

I am not denying that there are times when amateur stations efficiently handle large volumes of traffic. The very efficient traffic nets in the USA are a good example of this (and by the way many of the best use CW). However for many, perhaps most, amateur activities, traffic volume is not a significant consideration, so one cannot argue that CW is an unimportant mode for the amateur service simply because commercial services, for which traffic volume is the key requirement, no longer make widespread use of it.

By the way, the military does still make use of Morse code for specialized requirements. For example, Naval Gunfire Forward Observers of the British Army are "trained in advanced communications, Morse code, adjusting both naval gunfire and artillery, forward air control techniques, and helicopter operations, including helicopter rappels"[2]. Morse code is also a requirement for Special Forces units including the SAS and SBS.

QSO Rate

So what is important? Well for the DXer, DX-pedition operator and contesteer, the primary consideration is *rate* – that is, the number of QSOs per hour. For the DXer rate matters because the greater the rate, the greater their chance of making a QSO and getting into the DX station's log. For the DX-pedition operator rate matters because the success of an expedition is often judged by the number of QSOs. And for the contesteer rate is (almost) everything. When it comes to QSO rate, CW and phone are about equally matched. For example in last year's IARU HF World Championships, where the phone and CW contests take place during the same 24 hour period and under the same propagation conditions, the top single-operator phone station was KH6ND with 2,451 QSOs, while the top single-operator CW station was P3F with 2,816 QSOs. Digital modes trail slightly – although the IARU HF contest does not include digital modes, a comparative figure is the 1,912 QSOs made by KI1G, the top entrant in the ARRL RTTY roundup. Although this contest runs for 30 hours, contesters may only operate for a maximum of 24, so the comparison is a reasonable one. To avoid upsetting anyone, let's just agree that CW, phone and digital modes all achieve similar QSO rates. That is sufficient for my argument.

Bandwidth Efficiency

One of the areas where CW is clearly superior to most other modes is bandwidth efficiency. CW can achieve a similar QSO rate to phone while accepting a channel spacing of 250 Hz or less, compared with the 2 500 Hz minimum required by phone. This means that the QSO

rate per Hertz of bandwidth occupied is at least ten times greater for CW than it is for phone. The only other mode that can compete with this remarkable efficiency is PSK-31. Bandwidth efficiency is especially important in the amateur service given our limited amateur allocations. (Anyone who claims that our HF allocations are underutilized has never operated during a major contest!)

Readability under Poor Signal Conditions

When it comes to weak-signal performance, CW is a clear leader on the HF bands. Listening tests have shown that SSB operator-to-operator grade service with 90% intelligibility of related words by trained operators requires a signal to noise ratio of 48 dB-Hz for a bandwidth of 3 KHz[3]. A similar level of intelligibility can be obtained with a CW signal to noise ratio of 27 dB-Hz in a 500 Hz bandwidth, while RTTY requires a signal to noise ratio of 55 dB-Hz. This means that for the same level of intelligibility, a phone signal requires 11 dB more power than a CW signal; and an RTTY signal requires 28 dB more power. For CW signals in a 250 Hz bandwidth the advantage over SSB is about 13 dB. In other words, to achieve the same intelligibility under poor conditions as a 100 W CW signal you would require a 2 KW SSB signal!

I notice this effect regularly when band conditions are poor and I hear SSB operators whom I know to run high power into large beams complain that conditions are “impossible”, while I still manage CW QSOs with 100 W and a dipole.

Admittedly some of the newer digital modes like WSJT also provide excellent weak-signal performance. However these modes are designed specifically for VHF operation. The best HF digital modes, like PSK-31, still fall short of CW in weak signal ability.

The relative power efficiency of CW is of particular benefit to operators who use simple low-powered stations, which is likely to be the case for operators from previously disadvantaged communities. It will become ever more important as we move deeper into the trough of the solar cycle over the next few years.

Simplicity and Home Construction

One of the objectives of amateur radio is to encourage home construction. Here CW has a distinct advantage, since CW transceivers are inherently less complex, and hence less expensive and easier to construct than, phone transceivers. For example, the Small Wonder Labs[4] “Rock Mite” QRP CW transceiver kit retails for US \$30. I do not know of any comparably priced SSB equivalent.

Low Power Requirements

CW transceivers also often have significantly lower power drain than multi-mode designs. For example, my Elecraft K1 draws only 55 mA on receive. This makes CW transceivers ideal for battery-powered “adventure radio” operations, for example for operations from mountain summits. Commonly used portable SSB transceivers like the Yaesu FT-817 draw as much as 450 mA, making them much less suited to sustained battery-powered operation.

The CW “Lingua Franca”

The abbreviations and pro-signs used in CW communications make it possible for operators who do not speak the same language to communicate at least basic information. This means that proficiency in English is not a requirement for successfully communicating worldwide using CW, which is an obvious benefit in our attempts to facilitate amateur radio amongst previously disadvantaged communities.

Emergency Communications

One of the roles of the amateur service is to provide emergency communications in the event of a national disaster. Many different modes might be utilized, depending on the circumstances. If the emergency is localized, then FM repeater communications are likely to play the leading role. For more widespread emergencies, HF communications are important. If the emergency leaves our computer systems operational, and if propagation is fairly good, then digital modes might be most effective. If computers are unavailable but we can rely on high power transmitters and fair propagation, then SSB might be the mode of choice. If we lose our computers and have to operate with limited power (for example from backup batteries or solar power) or under poor propagation conditions, then CW might be the best (and only) way to get through.

Summary

If you want to operate on DXpeditions or in contests, CW satisfies the key requirement for a high QSO rate. CW also makes better use of limited amateur spectrum than most other modes. If you have a limited budget or power or antenna restrictions, then CW provides you with better intelligibility under poor signal conditions than any other common HF mode. If you want to construct your own equipment, then CW allows simpler and less expensive transceiver projects. If you want to operate from remote places using battery or other alternative power, then CW is the most power-efficient mode. And under certain emergency conditions, CW may be the only mode possible.

For these reasons I believe that no-one can honestly claim that CW is no longer a useful, or even an important, mode of communications.

CW is a Popular Mode

It may surprise you to discover just how popular a mode CW is. A recent multiple-choice survey on the ARRL web site, which was open to all amateurs (not just ARRL members), asked the question “what percentage of your operating time is spent using CW?”. The results were as follows[5]:

| Answer | Percentage of Respondents | Number of Respondents |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| I do not operate CW at all | 32.6% | 1002 |
| Less than 25% | 17.1% | 525 |
| 26-50 % | 6.2% | 192 |
| 51 – 75% | 8.6% | 265 |

So if this survey is accurate then it would appear that 44% of amateurs spend more time on CW than on all other modes put together.

CW is also a popular contesting mode. A quick check showed that 3645 CW logs were submitted for the CQ Worldwide 2002 contest, compared to 4050 SSB logs.

Admittedly, in South Africa the contest statistics are tilted somewhat more towards SSB. The 2002 HF CW contest received 15 entries as compared to the phone contest's 40 entries. However the CW contest still received more entries than the VHF Contest (14 entries), 40m Simulated Emergency contest (10 entries) or the 80m QSO Party (3 entries)[6].

Again, I am not arguing that CW is the most popular mode. Only that it is one of several popular modes. Or, to misquote Oscar Wilde, "reports of its death are greatly exaggerated".

The Education and Examination Syllabus

Having established that CW is both a useful and a popular mode of amateur communication, it is easy to show that our education and examination syllabus should include at least the basic abilities required to operate in this mode. After all, one of the main purposes of the syllabus and examination is to equip new amateurs to operate efficiently, legally and safely using the most common and useful modes.

I am not suggesting that CW should receive any special treatment here compared with other useful and popular modes like FM, SSB and some of the digital modes. I think it is important for the education syllabus to include the basic abilities needed to operate in all these modes.

Why not just allow candidates to select the modes they intend to operate in, and only learn the skills necessary for those particular modes? Well I can think of a couple of good reasons not to do that:

- A new amateur generally does not know enough about the different modes to make informed decisions until he or she has had a chance to use them in practice. So if we do not provide candidates with at least the basic abilities needed to try out each of the modes, then we are not equipping them to make an informed decision about which modes to use.

- It would be a nightmare to administer. Would we create a separate license class for someone who wanted to operate CW, RTTY and PSK-31, but not AM, SSB or FM? They of course should not be required to learn the phonetic alphabet, as it is not relevant to any of their preferred modes – but how would we administer or enforce such an unwieldy set of options?

So I think there are sound reasons to give a basic grounding in all the popular and useful modes to all candidates, and allow them to make their own choices once they have had the opportunity to try out the different modes.

Now I admit that this does not happen very well today. Although SSB and FM operating procedures are included in the examination syllabus, we have lagged behind the develop-

ment of digital modes. We do not, for example, examine either the theory or the practice of PSK-31, which is becoming increasingly popular and which is certainly also a useful mode.

But the fact that our syllabus has lagged behind the development of digital modes should be seen as a reason to include more about digital modes in the syllabus, so we can properly equip new amateurs to make the most of them. It does not make sense that because we have lagged in this area we should stop preparing our candidates properly for other modes like SSB, FM and CW.

The Morse Requirement

So what does it take to have basic operating ability in CW? Well clearly the ability to send and receive Morse code. Someone with no Morse code ability cannot be considered basically competent in CW, just as someone who did not know the phonetic alphabet could not be considered basically competent in any of the phone modes.

Of course some may argue that since computers can send and receive Morse code, competence in using computers and soundcard interfaces (which will in any case be needed for the digital modes) could also suffice for CW. However if you look back at the attributes that make CW such a useful mode, you will see immediately that this is not the case as many of these advantages fall away if computers are used to generate and receive Morse. Computers cannot read Morse correctly under poor conditions; it is not simple to construct a CW transceiver that includes a computer to interpret the Morse; and however power-efficient you manage to make your transceiver, you're not going to have much joy off batteries if you have to run a computer as well! Reliance on computer would also make it less likely that CW communications would be available during a disaster.

So for these reasons I suggest that the key abilities required for a basic level of competence in CW are the ability to send Morse code by hand, and the ability to receive it by ear. And this is why I believe that we should retain a Morse code requirement for an unrestricted amateur license.

The No-Code Arguments

As well as explaining why I believe that the Morse requirement should be retained, I think it worthwhile to take a brief look at the arguments advanced by those who oppose the Morse requirement, in order to show that their arguments are unsound. As a representative of the "no-code" camp I have chosen the No-Code International lobby group, the best-known opponents of the Morse code requirement. Their home page^[7] gives the following reasons as to why Morse code testing should be abolished.

1. NCI is not opposed to manual Morse code operation. But CW is just another mode and should not be afforded any special priority over others. It is available to those who wish to use it. Morse proficiency should not be required for those who do not wish to use the mode. I agree that CW is "just another mode and should not be afforded any special priority over others". However I have argued that it is the role of the syllabus and examination to equip

new amateurs with the abilities they need for basic competence in all popular and useful modes. That ability for CW is Morse code. If the argument advanced by No-Code International is correct, then similarly those who do not wish to use phone should not be required to demonstrate proficiency in phone operating procedures or the phonetic alphabet. And generalizing from modes to other aspects of amateur radio, those who do not wish to build or maintain their own equipment should not be required to demonstrate proficiency in basic electronics. Those who do not wish to operate DX should not be required to demonstrate proficiency in the theory of propagation. And so on. If taken seriously this position would result in a syllabus where all components were optional, which would be ridiculous and impossible to administer.

2. Manual radiotelegraphy communications has been superseded by more modern, reliable, accurate, faster and efficient means of communication.

I agree that this is largely true in the commercial services where traffic volume is the primary consideration, where good signal strength can be assured and where there are few restrictions on equipment, bandwidth, antennas and power levels. However this is not true of the amateur service, where CW remains one of the best modes of communication given the cost, power and bandwidth limitations we operate under, and given that traffic volume is not usually the primary concern.

3. Requiring manual telegraphy proficiency is not compatible with the radio amateur's mandated objective of contributing to the advancement of the radio art.

Agreed, but neither is requiring knowledge of AM modulation, or of discrete electronics, or of ionospheric propagation when much greater efficiency can be achieved using satellites or fiber-optic cables. Certainly a knowledge of dipoles and quarter-wave verticals cannot be considered a contribution to the advancement of the art in antennas. However this does not invalidate the Morse component, as contributing to the advancement of the art is only one of the radio amateur's objectives, not the only one.

4. No evidence exists that Morse proficiency is an indicator of a desirable, motivated or better qualified operator.

Anecdotally I can report that I have never, ever heard profanity or personal insults on CW. This is in stark contrast with the bad language and worse manners of some of the operators on FM repeaters. But this is purely anecdotal and does not count as evidence, and I have not relied upon it as a reason for retaining Morse. I must also add that the great majority of operators on the FM repeaters are also courteous and professional, and the bad behavior mentioned is confined to just a few, many of whom remain anonymous.

5. The Morse code requirement serves as an advancement barrier to many otherwise qualified individuals.

Electronics theory also serves as a barrier to many people who would otherwise make good operators. But in my view that is not a good reason to ditch electronic theory from the syllabus. I have yet to see a good argument from anyone as to why they really cannot manage the Morse component. I hear many people saying they "don't have time" or "aren't interested" – well tough. If you don't have the time or interest to pass any other component

of the syllabus, then you won't get a license. Why should Morse code be any different? And if you have a real physical or mental problem that makes it unreasonably hard for you to pass the Morse test, then you can apply for an exemption.

6. The value of Morse code communications in the Amateur Service is primarily recreational in nature and manual telegraphy proficiency should no longer be a compulsory licensing requirement for any class of Amateur Radio license.

I agree that the value of Morse code communications is primarily recreational. However this misses the point that the Amateur Service as a whole is primarily recreational in nature, as are all the modes used. So if this was a good reason not to teach CW competence, then it is an equally good reason not to teach competence in SSB, FM, RTTY, PSK-31 and Packet as the use of all these modes in the Amateur Service is "primarily recreational in nature".

What will happen if Morse testing is removed?

Well fairly obviously there will be a reduction in the number of new amateur operators who become proficient in CW. There will still be some who still learn Morse code, but they will be fewer than at present. The older operators who are already proficient in CW will eventually die or leave the hobby, resulting in a smaller proportion of CW operators on the bands.

The use of CW may stabilise at a lower number than at present, or it may lose critical mass and eventually die out altogether. After all, in order to become proficient in CW usually requires some sort of encouragement or tuition, so if there aren't sufficient CW operators around there won't be anyone to train those newcomers who would like to learn. And many new amateurs who would have enjoyed CW and become skilful operators if introduced to Morse code during their training will lose the opportunity to discover it for themselves.

Some new operators who would have spent much of their time operating CW in a 250 Hz bandwidth will instead operate SSB with a 2.5 KHz bandwidth. They will find that 100 W just does not cut it under poor conditions, and purchase linear amplifiers. The reduced number of CW operators may result in some or all of the current CW allocations being reallocated to phone; but this will not reduce congestion. On the contrary, even with additional allocations the bands will be more congested due to the higher proportion of 2.5 KHz bandwidth signals.

The resulting perception that expensive linear amplifiers and antenna systems are required to communicate effectively when conditions are poor is likely to be a much more serious barrier to entry amongst previously disadvantaged communities than any Morse test. After all, people from these communities are generally willing to invest their time to acquire new skills, while significant financial investments are simply not possible.

Eventually many amateurs will lose the ability to maintain a high QSO rate, or to rag-chew, while making best use of our scarce spectrum resources. QRP and adventure radio operations will become less popular, due to the difficulty of being heard on QRP phone and the dearth of CW activity. We won't have any good alternative to offer newcomers who can't afford linear amplifiers and large antenna arrays – we'll just have to tell them to wait until

propagation gets better, or for the next upturn in the solar cycle. Government will target us as a “rich man’s hobby”. And should a disaster not conveniently leave our computers unscathed, we may not be able to perform the emergency communications role we so proudly proclaim.

To me, this is a fairly bleak picture of the future of amateur radio.

Of course some will argue that even if the Morse code requirement is abolished, those who want to learn it will still do so, and that if this is insufficient to keep the mode alive well, then, it was a dying mode anyway and best left to its fate. However this argument is fundamentally flawed, as can be seen if it is applied to any other aspect of amateur radio.

Suppose, for example, that we decided to do away with the electronics component of the syllabus. This could easily be justified by “No-Tech International” on the grounds that electronics is irrelevant since surface mounted devices prevent us from constructing or maintaining state of the art equipment; and that it serves as an unfair barrier to entry to those who do not have the time or inclination to master this difficult subject. In any case, knowledge of electronics clearly is not required to operate modern black-box rigs.

Without an electronics component in the syllabus, most amateurs would probably never bother to learn it. Some who would have found it interesting had it been a requirement will never know, since they won’t have the opportunity to be introduced to it in the first place. Others may be interested, but will find it too much of a struggle to learn as there won’t be anyone to teach them – after all, most of the local amateurs will have “no-tech” licenses.

Slowly the amateur community will lose its ability to construct and maintain equipment, and even its understanding of how the equipment works. We will become simply a community of operators. And that would also be a sad day for amateur radio.

What this analogy illustrates is that although doing away with the Morse code requirement may result in the eventual demise of CW as a mode of operation, it does not follow that CW had outlived its usefulness. Similarly, even though the abolition of the electronics component of our syllabus might result in the demise of home construction, this does not mean that home construction and technical ability have outlived their usefulness. All that these examples show is that which aspects of our hobby survive and prosper, and which struggle or even die, to some extent depends on what we choose to teach newcomers to the hobby. This is hardly a surprising observation! And having shown why I believe CW to be an important component of our hobby, I believe we need to ensure that we continue to teach Morse code to future generations.

Conclusion

This paper has shown that CW is both a useful and a popular mode of communication amongst amateurs. I have argued that a key purpose of our training and examination syllabus is to equip new amateurs with the basic abilities they need to make use of all useful and popular modes, and that in the case of CW this means training and examining candidates in Morse code. I have also examined the arguments given by No-Code International and shown

them to be without substance.

Doing away with the Morse code requirement may result in the decline or even the eventual demise of an important mode that offers many advantages for today's amateurs. It would compromise our ability to provide emergency communications. Doing away with Morse means accepting the need for higher power and more complex and expensive antenna systems in order to communicate effectively under poor propagation conditions which will reduce the appeal of amateur radio in previously disadvantaged communities.

I therefore recommend that the Council of the South African Radio League should support the retention of a Morse code requirement for the issuing of unrestricted amateur licenses. This does not exclude the possibility that some HF access could be given to other license classes that do not include a Morse code requirement.

[1] Email: zs1an@qsl.net.

[2] Dominique Sumner, "148 Commando Forward Observation Battery", <http://www.specwarnet.com/europe/148fob.htm>. [3] Akima et al, "Required Signal-to-Noise Ratios for HF Communication Systems", Institute for Telecommunications Sciences ESSA Technical Report, ERL 131-ITS 92, August 1969.

[4] <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com>

[5] <http://www.arrl.org/survey.php3?pollnr=176>.

[6] http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contest_results/contestresults.asp

[7] <http://www.nocode.org>

This is a position paper submitted to the Council of the South African Radio League. This is also available in MS Word 2000 and Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) formats on Andrew's web page <<http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/>>.

You are welcome to redistribute or reproduce this document in full without alteration or to quote from it, provided that any quotation is identified as such.

FISTS CW CLUB "DOWN UNDER" Newsletter

August 2003

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FISTS DOWN UNDER

AUSTRALIAN CLUB CALL SIGN

VK2FDU FISTS # 9610

Thanks to the efforts of Chris, VK2MQX # 9057, our Australian members now have their own National Club Station, VK2FDU (FISTS DOWN UNDER). Full details of operation and by whom have yet to be ironed out, but expect the call to appear on the bands very soon. This National Club Station will count FIVE (5) points towards the present FISTS Awards. When the station is aired by a member located in say Perth, W.A. and not the home state of New South Wales, the call will change with the addition of the appropriate suffix i.e. VK2FDU/6. (Well done Chris - Ed)

All licensed VK members of the FISTS Club may operate the call sign in accordance with their own license grade. To apply for use of the call sign, send your request to Chris VK2MQX.

An operator of the club call sign must keep a log, a copy of which must be forwarded to Chris VK2MQX, and must contain all relevant information i.e.

- a) date and time (UTC) of each QSO.
- b) frequency used.
- c) stations communicated with.
- d) full details of any FISTS member worked including their membership number and cc number if applicable.

Members outside of VK2 need to append their state ID number to the callsign. e.g. VK2FDU/6

Contacts with VK2FDU are worth 5 points.

The QSL Manager for VK2FDU is Chris VK2MQX. Please send him your cards when returning the log sheet.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to six new members:

VK4JLA - Mal Lawrence # 9606 is from Strathpine, Queensland - our second member from that area.
VK6AFW - Tony Wong # 9607 comes from Karrinyup, Western Australia, boosting the number of members in the Wild West to four.

VK1AF - Ernie Hocking # 9068 who joins on the recommendation of VK6PG-Alan-#9018. Ernie is our second member from VK1.

VK2IOW - Patrick Staples - # 9609 resides in Millthorpe NSW, a country centre on the rail line between Bathurst and Orange. Our second member from that region.

VK6BT - Bob Thomson # 9611, another Western Australian member from Rockingham, on the coast just south of Perth. That's five from WA

ZL2AVM - Bob Morris # 9612, resides in Khandallah. One of about eleven Wellington based members.

We hope to have more information about these members later in FISTS Down Under. It's nice to see the number of VK members increasing. Thanks to those who have been active in promoting the club.

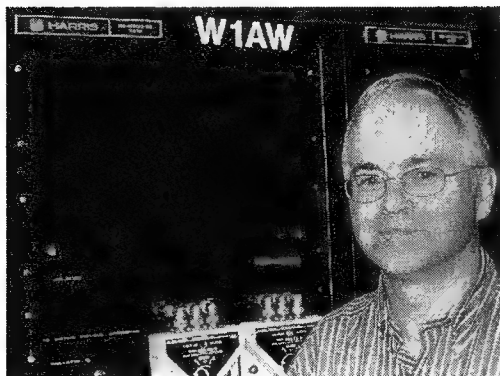
With numbers increasing in some localities in Australia and New Zealand it is time for someone to take the initiative and organise informal meetings for a rag chew and perhaps a meal and a potion. This has been done successfully in the Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland regions.

FISTS NUMBERS

You will note that in recording numbers a leading zero has been added to numbers below 10,000. This has been done for the sake of uniformity with the recording system used by the FISTS HQ in the UK. It doesn't mean that you should use the leading zero when reporting your number to another FISTS member on the air. It's business as usual!

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

In renewing their subscriptions ZL2BIL - Bill #9003, ZL1LE - Brian #9011, ZL1BSG - Keith #9000, ZL2AMM - Stan #9023 and ZL2AVL - Bill #9033 included generous donations. Many thanks to you all. Brian reports that he has been reporting beacon K7FFF since August 2002, whenever the propagation permits. This is part of a regular daily 10 metre watching programme at 19:00 UTC. He last logged K7FFF on 12 April. It was only recently that he realised that K7FFF is a FISTS Club (FISTS Northwest) through reading through the material in the recent bumper mail-out. VK6AV/VE6DK-Harris-#9081 writes: Conditions are "stinko" here in Perth. Last month I had the opportunity to attend the Dayton Hamvention and later visit the ARRL HQ in Newington. It was a magical experience operating - W1AW!



Harris in front of the Harris gear at W1AW

ZL1BRS - Syd #9013, writes that he is pleased with the progress of the club, which he believes is going from strength to strength. He commends the establishment of the New Zealand Fists Down Under call ZL6FF, as a means of recognition for the club. He also supports the view that we have promulgated, i.e. people who wish to rag-chew should QSY off the calling frequencies, for the benefit of others who wish to use the frequencies, for a quick exchange.

ZL1MRX - Jeff #9001 and his XYL, ZL1OK - Anna #9017, have resigned their membership and write to say that they are no longer licensed and are giving up the hobby. They say that they have enjoyed their time with us (Jeff is a foundation member of FISTS Down Under) and that they may decide to return one day. We certainly hope so! Jeff and Anna; we are sad to see you go.

ZL1AZE - Brian #9078, was a member of the New Zealand government delegation to the recent International Radio Conference WRC-03 in Geneva. He wrote saying that before leaving Geneva, he hoped to visit the ITU HQ amateur station 4U1ITU. After that, he planned some well-earned time-off, to holiday in Europe and returns to ZL about the end of July. We hope to publish an account of Brian's trip and some photographs in a later FDU.

VK8JC/KC4MC-James-#9076 is in the process of moving. He says he has not been on 80 meters at all, because he lived in a town house and had no room for an aerial for that band. He is very glad to hear that the VK membership is growing, and says that some more VK8s, would be a welcome addition to our ranks. Unfortunately, he is moving back to the US, leaving 24 July. He does not plan to renew his membership, as he will not have much time to get on the radio, back in the US. He says it has been really nice meeting us all and being in FISTS. When things slow down a little, he says will be re-join.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Following discussion, it has been decided that changes in members e-mail addresses will NOT be published in the FISTS Downunder newsletter, but will remain on a confidential e-mail list available to members only.

If you change your e-mail address, please let us know right away - otherwise we find out the hard way and have to check with you to find out your new address.

FISTS DOWN UNDER NET & CW PRACTICE NET

Please make a note of the following FISTS Down Under nets:

1. FISTS Chat Net times 0930 UTC CW & 1030 UTC SSB 3545 kHz, Thursdays.
2. CW Practice Net run by VK3FGE-Dave-#9088 0930 UTC 3545 kHz, Wednesdays (Check in on SSB)

N.B. Because of variation between VK and ZL band allocations, ZL members will be unable to participate in the SSB aspects of these nets

FISTS COAST TO COAST CONTEST - 2003

(Nancy note: the rules were written here, but edited out for sake of space - they are already in the N.A. Memo part again this month.

ZL6FF IN THE COAST-TO-COAST CONTEST: We hope to have the ZL FISTS Down Under NZ station ZL6FF operational throughout the Coast-to-Coast Contest. This could be by a single operator or a group of operators co-operating, not necessarily at the same location. We had hoped to operate ZL6FF from Quartz Hill but unfortunately it is booked for another contest. Volunteers wishing to operate as ZL6FF for all or part of the contest should contact ZL2AOH-Ralph-#1073 as soon as possible. Remember, members in New Zealand can volunteer to operate the club station ZL6FF at any time by contacting Ralph, ZL2AOH.

TRADING POST

SWAP: INRAD 400Hz B/W, 8.83mHz IF xtal filter - suitable for Kenwood TS930/940/850/570/450 transceivers, in GWO, for Yaesu 500Hz B/W, 455Hz IF, xtal filter type YF115C - for FT1000MP sub Rx. Contact Mike ZL1MH - z11mh@nzart.org.nz or Call Book address.

FREE: "SPRAT" magazines (G-QRP-C) from #1 to date. All or nothing no split. You pay courier though! Contact Mike ZL1MH - z11mh@nzart.org.nz or Call Book address.

FOR SALE: FRG 8800 receiver. From the estate of the late John Gabites ZL2AQ. \$600 or close offer. Bill Cox ZL2BIL, email: billcat@paradise.net.nz Ph: 04-902-2630.

AUSTRALIAN MORSE TRAINING TRANSMISSIONS

Q-News reports that Morse Training Transmissions are on the air 24 hours every day on 3.699 MHz. They also report that the Sunshine Coast Amateur radio Club broadcasts CW every Sunday night from 09:30 UTC on 3.535 MHz.

Q-News often repeats information from FISTS Down Under and we are grateful to Graham Kemp VK4BB and his team for their support in publicising the club.

RENEWALS

A large number of members will be receiving subscription renewal notices in the next couple of months. It would be appreciated if members could act on these as promptly as possible to save the time and expense in having to send further notices. Although we don't like it to happen, it is possible that some may, for some reason, be unable to continue membership. It's nice to be told this beforehand. On occasions we have spent considerable time and expense searching for members who have departed. So if you have any problems with your membership, please let us know. Such matters will be dealt with confidentially.

PROFILE

Whilst in conversation with another FISTS member recently, the topic of Profiles came up. I was a little embarrassed, when I had to admit that my own profile had not yet appeared. Having been shamed into the saga - here goes! - Ed.

ZL2TX - Nigel Hardy # FISTS 9040.

Born 5th September 1946, under the Cathedral, in the City of Lincoln, England makes me both a "Lincoln Imp" and what locals call each other, a "Yellow Belly". Indeed, even today, one can see "the Lincoln Imp" in the cloisters of the Cathedral, if one looks hard enough! He's difficult to see and high up!

During my school days at Loughborough Grammar School, in Leicestershire, England, I joined the Combined Cadet Force on the Army Cadet Signals side. It wasn't long, before I started plodding away trying to learn the Morse Code. I too had a stumbling block at around 10 w.p.m. Everyone I have spoken with, has the same prob-

lem. Practice was the answer and before I knew it, I had managed to master the grand speed of 12 w.p.m. Having passed the other Cadet Signals subjects, I was then made a Cadet Signals Instructor and allocated a personal call sign for use on the Cadet nets. We used 19 Mk 3 sets at the time, and had regular contact on both R/T and W/T with the other units, around the United Kingdom. My other forte was shooting on the ranges, which I thoroughly enjoyed, gaining Marksman's badges for both .22 and .303 rifles in competition shooting.

The Radio Bug had bitten and it wasn't long before I discovered Amateur Radio as a Short Wave Listener. At home, I had a Marconi CR100 receiver and a 19 Mk 3 set, both equipment ex - the armed services.

In 1964 I sat and passed the examinations for Amateur Radio Theory and Morse Code (12 w.p.m.) The theory exam was not like it is today with multi-choice questions and answers. Then, one had to be able to draw circuit diagrams from memory and state how they worked!

Having received the pass slips in mid June 1964, I applied for my licence. Unfortunately for me, the U.K. Post Office went on a six week period of rolling strikes and it wasn't until the 10th August 1964, that I received the coveted envelope, for which I had waited so long, announcing that I was officially G3TJD.

Having attained my licence, I started out using CW on 160 metres, with a Home built Valve transmitter (TT11 valve in P.A.), running 10 watts input to a wire antenna, and an RCA AR88D receiver (ex - WW2). My first rather shaky CQ, was answered by G3EHA who realising that my call sign was only recent, slowed down to my speed (something I have never forgotten) and a chat ensued. He wasn't far away and certainly not DX, but I still have his treasured QSL card to this day.

Changing to a top loaded vertical antenna, brought me my first DX with this simple rig. One night at nearly midnight, I heard 9V1LP calling CQ on 1.807MHz. He answered my call and gave me 489 QRN - Name Bob - QTH Singapore. I literally fell off my chair, thinking he's got to be a Pirate. Five minutes later he faded out completely. I couldn't believe my eyes when a QSL card arrived by Air Mail a week later. In his remarks Bob said that he had topped the QSO, something I have yet to hear!

I received all sorts of comments from local Amateurs including "The kilowatt kid" and it took a lot of persuasion to convince them that I was running a genuine 10 watts INPUT. In the end, I arranged a visit to my shack to show them the equipment. Even then, they were not convinced, and wanted to know where the hidden amplifier or linear was! After this I stayed up, night after night, trying to work the U.S.A. One outstanding signal was W1BB but although I called and called, he couldn't hear my puny signal! Sometime later, I did manage to work a W2 who gave me RST 329 - so that was that!

At 17 years of age, I could not afford to buy expensive S.S.B. equipment and so was limited to CW. This was probably the best thing that ever happened, as I then progressed, using a home built, 100 Watt, input CW ONLY Transmitter on the higher H.F. CW Bands. Remember those 807 valves, two in parallel and a Geloso V.F.O. that used to drift slowly up the band? Never operate near the band edge for fear of drifting outside and if this means losing some juicy DX - too bad!

About this time, I obtained my first job as an Assistant Laboratory Technician at King Edward VII Grammar School, Stafford. Not the most pleasant of jobs, amongst other things, it involved clearing away the entrails of dissected rats and cleaning and ventilating the rooms, after the science classes. Pretty smelly stuff!

During my time working at the School, I decided to set up an Amateur Radio Club and obtained the call sign G3UYA. It wasn't long before some interest was shown and with assistance, two members later went on to acquire their own licences namely Reg, G3VDH and Rick, G3VPD, with whom, I still keep in contact today. I wonder what they are thinking, as they read this? It was here that I met another radio amateur - Phil, G3SIN, who just happened to be a ship's Radio Officer, with the Elder Dempster Line. His stories of far off places, held me enthralled and it wasn't too long before I decided that - I too, wanted to see the World. The decision I had to make, was should I join the Royal Navy or the Merchant Service. This was not as easy as may seem, as I was already a member of the Royal Naval Reserve at the time, however for various reasons the Merchant Service won.

I enrolled at the Marine Radio College in Brook's Bar, Manchester to start the course for a 2nd Class P.M.G. Certificate. It was not the walk over, that I had imagined. My Morse Speed was well up, thanks to amateur radio, the fault finding seemed a "doddle", but the theory demanded a lot of work on my part. I thought I was doing well and flew through the Morse and Theory examinations. Then came the fault finding. All went well with the first two pieces of equipment the "Oceanspan" transmitter and the "Atalanta" receiver. It was then my turn on the Automatic Alarm receiver. I walked over to it confidently and switched on the equipment only to be besieged by the loudly ringing alarm bells. I just couldn't think - whatever I did - they just continued ringing - so much so, I just went to pieces - a blithering wreck, emerging from the examination room, knowing that failure to stop those "bloody bells", meant another term, before I could re-sit part II of the examination. So be it!

The next term went well and this time I was well prepared for those "bells" and indeed anything else, the examiner could throw at me, including making up an aerial splice! My original plan of sitting a 1st Class Certificate and Radar Maintenance certificate had to be shelved, for the time being, as I needed to be earning a living and could

be a student no longer.

With my new shining certificate in hand, I signed up in Liverpool, with the Marconi Marine Company. To someone who has never been to Liverpool, then you may find the girls, or "Liver Bird's" as they are affectionately known, have a strange ringing accent - no offence intended. They are all lovely. However to report to the Marconi Marine Depot and be told, to go and sit in the waiting room, where you will be shortly called, in Morse Code, was just too much! Weird - but true! Never could remember my "Marconi" number, although I have it somewhere!

I was directed to report and sign on the vessel "TABOR / MNBN" as Junior Radio Officer at the Liverpool Shipping Office. On arrival I was confronted by a very long queue of strapping, hairy armed men, mostly Liverpudlian or Irish, by their accents. I joined the tail end of the queue and waited. It wasn't long before I was spotted - after all, I was only a very "Green Sparky", complete in full uniform - luckily camouflaged by my raincoat and minus my cap, which was hidden from sight, in my bag. An elderly official ushered me forward to the front of the next queue, reserved for Officer's Only. Funny - there was nobody in sight! As I walked forward, past the lines of Seamen, I could feel their gaze, stabbing my every movement! Luckily, nobody uttered a word!

On my arrival at the desk, the grey haired official, with horn rimmed glasses looked up and asked what Rank - your certificates please! He then placed a brand new set of articles in front of me, to await my signature.

- I stated Junior R/O and handed over the prized certificate. He looked up and momentarily the expression on his face said it all. "God where has this fancy Greenhorn crawled from?" I could feel my cheeks turning bright red!
- It was when he said sign here, that I looked up and noticed the name of the ship at the top of the page - "Empress of England", - a passenger ship employed on the Liverpool - Canada run. To his horror, I uttered - "Wrong ship - I'm to join the Tabor!" With that, he dived behind the big desk and fished out the articles for the Tabor, a dog-eared book, that had seen better days! My heart stopped momentarily - what was I doing?
- Too late now - I signed on and proceeded to join the ship, due to sail the next day for the Mediterranean, first port of call - Valletta, Malta. For now, that's another story. Plenty of others to come!

Briefly, I served on a variety of ships world - wide. Various companies including Shell Tankers (U.K), the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, Shaw Savill, and the P & O Line. Eventually ended up with the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand bringing out their first Roll On Roll Off vessel, the "MAHENO / ZMGN" from Grangemouth, Scotland. Seeing her being built and taking shape in front of my eyes was a highlight in my life. She was to be fitted with the most modern Radio Equipment of the time, which necessitated my returning to the Marconi Company in Chelmsford to complete their Single Sideband and Transistorised Radar, Fault Finding courses. During the ships trials off the coast of Scotland, it became my duty to test and check all the Radio, Radar and Navigational equipment. I remember well, calling Awarua Radio/ZLB in New Zealand on 8MHz and 12MHz CW and requesting they listen for me on a Single Sideband R/T frequency, all tests being duly noted in the W/T log. It was quite something to sign the acceptance forms for Radio and Radar on behalf of the Master and Company!

Something new to me, was the fact that it was one of my duties to handle all the Ship's monies, accounts, wages, Allotments, Port papers including Customs and Agriculture, and hold all passports and vaccination certificates of the crew and petty cash, in a safe, which had been specially built into my cabin. I had to learn quickly, as in under four weeks we would be in New Zealand. Little did I know at the time, that the job of Radio Officer / Purser was common to most ships in New Zealand, bar the Passenger vessels. Two jobs for the price of one!

On the morning of our arrival at Auckland, the crew were out on deck early, dressing the ship overall. The different coloured flags must have made a spectacular sight, but I was too busy to take much notice, preparing to meet Customs and Agriculture Officers, in order that the vessel could be cleared and allowed to berth.

On berthing, "Maheno" received a rapturous welcome from an official "Maori" welcoming party, and I was told that the Governor General was present, and I thought I saw him, however with so many people around, together with television cameras and radio broadcasters, things became a bit of a blur! I did however, have the pleasure of meeting Sir Keith Holyoake, in person, at a function on a later date.

In 1969 my future wife persuaded me to study once again for a First Class R/O's Certificate which I duly passed. About this time I decided to come ashore and obtained employment with the New Zealand Post Office as a Radio Inspector and later Radio Surveyor, in Auckland. It was here that I first met a friend of many years, Bill Deverall, ZL1VS # FISTS 9603, who just happened to be my supervisor. I enjoyed the work immensely, however due to purely financial reasons I was to return to sea after a couple of years.

I married Christine in 1970 and we have two sons, David (now 28 years old, married to Corinne) and Phillip (now 25 years old). No grandchildren yet, but still hoping! We used to live in a small rural Wairarapa community called Kahutara, where I once again started a Radio Amateurs Course for interested persons. Among them were local Citizen Band addicts who wanted to go the whole hog and take up Amateur Radio. I can well remember their comments and dislike of having to learn Morse Code to obtain a licence! It came as quite a surprise to learn that 98 per cent of the class passed the theory paper, with slightly less also obtaining a pass in the 12 w.p.m. Morse

Test.

Among this class were Stan Mangin, ZL2BLQ # FISTS 9068, Jim Simmonds, ZL2BPH and the late Pauline Carr, ZL2QW. It gave me great pleasure to see them pass and hear them at a later date actually using CW with their own call signs!

For many years I worked on the Inter - Island ferries as one of their Radio Officers, along with Roger Wincer, ZL2RX # FISTS 9084. I am sure that he will agree that it wasn't the most pleasant of occupations especially in bad weather. Seeing passengers being sick all over the ship was a little disenchanting, but one soon got used to the sight.

With the advent of Satellite Communication, the year 1996, saw the end of Radio Officer's aboard Merchant Vessels in New Zealand and I, along with Ken Grace, ZL2NO, were the last two remaining R/O's. Our final trips saw the exchange of the last Morse Signals from New Zealand registered merchant vessels. Luckily we both had the foresight to record and document the event for the future.

I still enjoy Amateur Radio as a hobby and of course Morse Code (98%). I am a Life Member of RNARS and member of RSARS, FOC, FISTS, NZART, ZL (OTC) and RSGB.

Currently, we live in a rural community, 3 km from OTAKI, which is situated 70 km North of Wellington, in the North Island of New Zealand, where we built a new home 2 years ago on a patch of bare land (2-1/2 Acres), starting from scratch. Never again - but who knows ?

What do I like about FISTS and CW ?

Simply the friendship of the members and the fact they will go out of their way, to assist newcomers, in the art of communication by Morse Code. Add to that, the fact CW is STILL the easiest and cheapest way for a NEW amateur to get on the bands, have a bit of fun and work DX. - Nigel, ZL2TX.



CALLSIGN CHANGES

9293 Kevin, was KC8SFJ, is now W8VOS.
8546, Walt, was KB1HBC is now WG0T
5045, Leon, was WA6SAW is now W7XFS

Silent Key

Ed deFreitas, W1WEA, number 3011 June 24, 2003.



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.zl6qh.com>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

Chairman

Vice Chairman

P.R.O.

Secretary

COMMITTEE

G4XHZ

G4YLB

G4YLB

G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recommended calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21,058, 28,058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

<fistsawards@attbi.com>

written logs to HQ.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £1.50 incl.

QSL Cards £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

Please include your CALLSIGN on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

QSL BUREAU INFO

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

All UK/EU members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNSELY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M0ZAK. 6 Central Ave, SHEPshed, LE12 9HP.

G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL special** (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes or US dollars to M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Oh boy.... wotta month. Old Sol was clearly suffering from some gastric problem and skewed up the bands in no uncertain fashion for the second month running. The consequence of this was that 30m again proved the most productive band for those of us who live normal lives. The early to bed - early to rise brigade were enjoying life a little more with 40m producing some respectable DX. There must be thousands of you who like my-self are on another planet until mid-morning. Ooooh!

The sun brings 'em all out of the woodwork. Long in need of a new outside door, a chance call by one of those wandering paid-by-results doorstep prowlers caused me to invite a quote. Not too impressed with an estimate of £888 which did not include VAT even, I wished the rep happy wandering and looked further afield. First quote was £440 - less than half. What sort of a world are we living in I ask?

Whose got an iffy 'S' meter then? Manfred reported from Berlin on 40m with 549 over his own report of 589 and I was immediately called by Bert from the same city who proffered 599. Rather suspect that Manfred had more than a few dB of attenuation in circuit though I must confess that it does tend to improve the signal to noise ratio somewhat. Thinking along those lines, I did something I haven't done for years. I normally run with no AGC - merely switching it in temporarily to view the 'S' meter movement - but this time, I wound the RF gain back to around 50% and listened via the outboard AF filter. Why have I been struggling all this time with noise when I get results like that?

THE IN-BOX

G3XVF. Richard is on the prowl for kit to update the various items of ten-tec gear he has on hand (see last month re Sale). Unsurprisingly, the main criteria is a decent RX section and to this end he has been doing a little fishing:

I tried a test this weekend in the CQ WW CW WPX contest, I make a note in the log of the stations which came back to me first time, and the ones who had problems, (didn't hear me) for this test I only gave 1 call

to other stations and turned the power output right down to 10 watts.

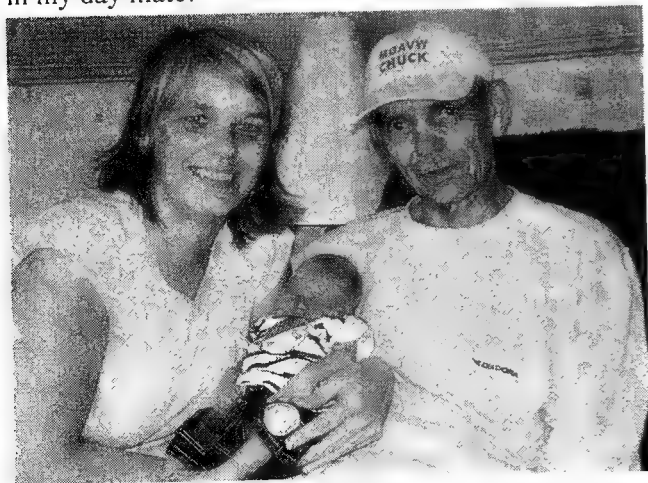
Now the problem, finding what transceivers they were using, the only thing I can do is to search the internet and also look on the DX Contest reflectors because of 599 001 QRZ etc, now the contest is over I will look for those calls for a chat to find out what rig they use, but most of these stations you only hear in contests.

Yes.... there's the rub Richard. Like many, I am at a loss to explain the fascination of contests but an even greater enigma is the number of excellent CW operators who only turn up during contests.

G4RCG. I will be HI9/G4RCG Jan 17th 2004 for 2 weeks and will be looking for members daily on 10118 skeds can be arranged if required. Now that's what I call good advance notice but you have someone here with the brain of the Pooh Bear and a memory to go with it so a reminder round about mid November would be appreciated. As you know, I usually take December off to keep an eye on my chimney!

GRANDAD

Hey... that's quite a good looking Grandma! Pity I can't say the same of M0AVW. The child (Owen) is obviously shattered after a session with Grandad anticipating some future help and explaining the filing system for QSL cards. Now then Chuck - Cameras were never so robust in my day mate!



F5SGI. In the June issue, I came across a short note entitled "Accentedchars". Unlike what was stated by Charles, GW3SB and Micke, SM5JAB, may I point out that most of us do use accents for our CW chitchats. Indeed, the "é" (di di da di di) is widely used, as well as the "à" (di da da di da) (as in "à bientôt", i.e. "see you soon", where, actually, the e with circumflex accent is not used. I must confess I ignore it...). We very rarely use the grave accent ("di da di di dah"). And here's me thinking we had heard the last of the subject. Hi. However, I have listened round quite a bit and it is rare indeed that accented chars have been heard between F/F or indeed any other EU country. Jean-Marc is not on his own. There were a few other emails and letters on the same subject this month some of which went into great depth about 'local' use of accented chars but each one

emphasizing that as far as written matter is concerned, they may comfortably be dispensed with. Do I now rewrite my language notes to dispense with them? I think not. Hi.

M0PCB. Hi Geo, As I write this my brain is returning to some sort of normality after yet another maths exam, just one of 6 thanks to the new AS/A level modular system (don't get me started about that!!). I am, however, unhappy to have to report that my on air activities have been much less than present and I hereby offer some kind of excuse. Mainly due to the fact I feel awful reading comments about participation levels in events knowing that I myself didn't take part even though I wanted to. I do enjoy operating CW and worked hard to get my CC (#1208) but these last few months, more like a year really, have seen me with less and less time for radio. It's now got to the stage where none of the radios get switched on regularly anymore. This is down to what some may call "A" Levels". I'm sure you know of them. These funny things called exams, whereby the examiner takes great pleasure in making us students squirm (no offence to any A Level examiners is intended!!). I suppose I brought it on myself by wanting to get off to university and study RF Engineering but it leaves me with more work to do than time to do it in.

Anyway I should really stop moaning and get on with the revision, although I felt it necessary to share the pain, hi!. I'm looking forward to July and after, no more exams, no more work, I might even get back on the key!! 73, Iain M0PCB / M1ETJ (FISTS: 7194, cc: 1208) Web: www.m0pcb.co.uk <---- and I'll plug the website while I'm here!! hi!

PS - and if this gets a mention in "ye olde keynote" it'll be after my exams have finished and I will have started my efforts to get QRV on the bands again with more CW...

F5NQL Again I am grateful to Maurice for his input which this month includes: **Barry, G4MFW, ZS1FJ, ZL1MFW and Phil, G3SWH** will be on Mangareva Island in the Gambier Islands of French Polynesia (IOTA OC-063) and from Rurutu Island in the Austral Islands (IOTA OC-050) between 10th and 22nd July 2003. The actual dates of each operation are to be decided but we hope to be on each island for at least five days.

Propagation permitting, we shall be active on all bands from 40 to 10 metres on SSB and CW and hope to work as many European, North American and ROTW stations as possible. Special callsigns have been applied for and will be announced as soon as they are known. The QSL route(s) will also be announced later. Donations towards the high cost of this expedition are invited and may be sent to either ZS1FJ or G3SWH.

Mike, K9AJ and Jim, K9PPY will activate Somerset Island (NA-new) from July 13-20. They may have two stations on the air, depending on conditions. As there will be no sunset (>500 miles north of Arctic Circle), they plan no activity below 40m on this trip. Callsigns will be K9AJ/VY0 and K9PPY/VY0. K9XYL/VY0 might

also be QRV.

After Somerset Island, K9AJ/VY0 will be QRV from Southampton Island (NA-007) from July 22-24.

It is possible that some activity might occur from Cornwallis Island (NA-009) and/or Baffin Island (NA-047) during the time period July 11-26, so pay attention to the QTH info given by the operator.

Usual IOTA frequencies will be used on CW & SSB. QSL to operator's home call.

Look for Martial, to be active as **FH/F5SIE**, from Mayotte island (AF027, DIFO FH001) between the 1st and the 15th of July 2003.

It's a CW only dxpedition and the traffic will be held on 7, 18 and 21 MHz with a TS 50 and wires. QSL, please via the French REF bureau.

Location: 12°30'–13°15'S - 044°45'–045°3' 59.6% islands hunters claim to date for this island.

Keyer sought.

73 de Richard G3XVF

If you hear of anyone selling a Samson ETM9C X3 Keyer made by DJ2BW, (same circuit as the super keyer III) QST Mag, PLEASE let me know.

Have just telephoned G3TUX and he has sold out, and he tells me that DJ2BW has retired and not making any more keyers.

73 de Richard G3XVF

Exactly what the following is about I know not but seems to have something to do with the RSGB and sponsored junk sales:

I am thinking of sorting out, a way of verifying users names, call signs and addresses. This facility will be a chargeable feature of the junksale, but there will still be no cost involved by placing adverts. The cost of address verification will probably be £5.

What will happen if you are verified is that the title under your user name will be altered from member to verified. This means that the address you supplied will have been verified as being correct, as you will have to confirm a password sent in a letter sent to your address, which in turn means that buyers should be able to place more trust in your adverts, as you would not be able to be verified if you were not at the address supplied.

If you are interested in this idea please let me know.

chris@radiosociety.org.uk. Chris - G0TOO

If it applies to you then that's fine but if you are as puzzled as myself then skip. Hi.

SILENT KEY

On 17 June after a long illness, G0VPI #07121. Filippo (Fil). I am indebted to Lisa, M0BQD for this information and trust she will be able to convey to Filippo's family our condolences.

Also on 22 May, Brian, G0VMI. No further info but advice from his widow.

JARGON

There's jargon and there's more jargon. There are a few organisations out there who are intent upon demolishing any bridges between high powered business, computer whiz-kids, medical and scientific circles generally and those of us who, through lack of educational opportunities at the time speak only plain English. There are also others who should be applauded for their efforts to re-build the aforesaid structures but I fear they may well be on to a loser. The sales rep was most offended when in the process of fixing an order for some printer ink when I queried his terse comment 'Contact?'. "Sorry" I stuttered.. "I don't appear to have one".

"Then what are you speaking to me on?"

"A telephone"

"Well what is your contact number?"

"I don't know what you mean"

"How can I contact you?"

The penny finally dropped and I gave him my phone number but asked why he could not call it that instead of 'contact' in the first place. I could almost see him tearing out his thatch in frustration and was treated to long discourse on the subject. Grrrr!

How many of you are infuriated by this stuff. Something goes wrong with your computer. You seek assistance. You get an email asking for information which you simply don't know the meaning of. AMD, PMCIA, XYZ, DSO and bar - it's endless. Does this mean that if you buy a car and it 'ceases to proceed' you are expected to have an honours degree in engineering or something before a service engineer will be booked to attend it? I bought an external hard disc for the purpose of taking complete backups together with a USB2 port to plug it into. It was only of minor inconvenience when I discovered that I had to unplug it and reinsert in order for my system to recognise the drive after a re-boot. The list of information requested was horrendous and after I explained that I was a user and not a technician, someone on the help desk with a human soul understood and fixed the problem with an updated driver. This however is a rare circumstance and if you are that lucky yourself the pse come and fill in my lottery ticket!

NOTE FOR AUGUST

Look for Paul-Joël, F2YT, touring the Italian province of Grosseto (15) from Aug 8th to 31st. Using the call sign I/F2YT, he will be active from a lot of Italian castles which count for the Italian Castles Award .Ottavio, IK1PML, the well known QSL cards printer, will go with him, at times

A short trip to Elba island is also scheduled between aug 15th and 31st, where Paul will sign IA5/F2YT (IOTA EU-028, IIA LI-001) Info in due time, have a look on the clusters The traffic is planned on 7052 and 14252 kHz SSB, but, by request, Paul can QSO in CW on the same frequency QSL via F2YT, either direct or via the bureau. Because of the date I have included this item which if you haven't already guessed, is from F5NQL.

MAY 2003 LADDER

Conditions again have been poor and the lack of contestants left those who took part to find contacts where they could. Ron G0MRH decided to try the CQ.WW-WPX contest for his points and was rewarded with 101 points.

MAY 2003 RETURNS.

| | |
|-------|-----|
| G0MRH | 101 |
| G3VQO | 32 |
| G4LHI | 32 |
| M0DRK | 14 |
| M0RHB | 10 |
| M0AYI | 9 |
| M5BRY | 8 |
| M0CMQ | 6 |
| M3XGQ | 4 |
| M0DRK | 65 |
| M0CMQ | 50 |
| G0SOP | 24 |
| M3XGQ | 10 |

ANNUAL TOTALS.

| | |
|----------|-----|
| G4LHI | 273 |
| G4AQZ | 214 |
| M5ABN | 181 |
| G3VQO | 168 |
| G0MRH | 151 |
| M0AYI114 | |
| M5AGL | 94 |
| HB9CHE | 83 |
| OH7QR | 71 |
| M0RHB | 62 |
| M0BRY | 24 |
| GW0SGG | 17 |
| G0XAH | 10 |
| M3GBT | 7 |

RESULTS OF THE EUCW QRS PARTY 2003.

CLASS A

| CALL | CLUB | POINTS |
|--------|-------|--------|
| IK2RMZ | AGCW | 15293 |
| G0EML | FISTS | 9986 |
| G4LHI | FISTS | 8855 |
| PA3AFF | HSC | 2408 |
| DL6KCR | AGCW | 1582 |
| G3VQO | FISTS | 938 |
| M5BRY | FISTS | 759 |
| M5AGL | FISTS | 481 |
| M0AYI | FISTS | 252 |
| M5ABN | FISTS | 105 |
| G4XPR | FISTS | 12 |
| M3XGQ | FISTS | 12 |

CLASS B

| CALL | CLUB | POINTS |
|--------|-------|--------|
| RW3AIG | -QRP | 8118 |
| G0UPL | FISTS | 855 |
| G4FAI | FISTS | 14 |

CLASS C&D NO RETURNS.

Award for the most readable Morse.

| CALL. | VOTES. |
|--------|--------|
| G0EML | 3 |
| M5BRY | 1 |
| IK2RMZ | 1 |
| G4HWK | 1 |
| M5ABN | 1 |

G0EML will receive the certificate for the most readable Morse.

Thank you to all who took part, it's a pity we could not have had more returns from the remaining 32 clubs. Lets hope the conditions will improve for next months ladder. 73 fer now and good hunting de Bob M5AGL.

SECRET WAR

Hello Geo... We had a message from Nancy Kott, editor of Worldradio magazine saying you may be interested in this... We would like to suggest a possible article/review in 'The Keynote' about a new video documentary we have recently completed. It tells of the secret wireless operations in World War Two, and involves radio amateurs now in their late seventies. The RSGB have endorsed the film and have promoted it in Radcom and on their website.

Since we have finished the video late last year we have had a great deal of interest from radio amateurs not only in the UK but in New Zealand, Germany, Canada, Holland and the USA. Seasoned US amateurs such as John Swartz (WA9AQN) and Jerry Berg website <<http://www.ontheshortwaves.com>> have promoted our work in the US, and it is looking likely that the 'Secret Wireless War' will be shown on 3 PBS stations in Illinois in August and September.

Naturally we think that many mature 'Keynote' readers and 'Fists' members might want to know about the secret use of wireless in World War Two (told largely by the operators themselves), and whether you would be interested in us writing an article about the film in 'The Keynote'. We believe that this story is largely untold and a great deal of American radio equipment was used to help win WW2.

A good idea of the article is already written if you visit: <http://www.grindelwald.co.uk/wireless/> - there are many good resolution still pictures (jpegs) from the film that could be sent and reproduced.

We use our website to promulgate the 2-hour video here in England and have VHS copies readily available. We of course would like send a complimentary copy to you, if you wish, if you can give us your address.

Look forward to hearing from you, David and Debra Rixon---

GRINDELWALD PRODUCTIONS 01844 347180

Take a look at our website... <http://www.grindelwald.co.uk>

This came right out of the blue for me and unfortunately, I do not have a video recorder but on a strictly first-come first-served basis, if any member would like to undertake this review then LMK and I will ask Grindwald if they would kindly forward the quoted complimentary copy.

COAST STATIONS TRAFFIC

As a special part of the ceremony surrounding this change NMC will return to the air using Morse code (CW) and possibly radio teletype (RTTY). These services, once the mainstays of Coast Guard communications, have been retired for several years but will be reinstated for this ceremony.

At present the frequencies known to be authorized for NMC are 8574kc and 500kc with the possible addition of 488kc. Additional HF frequencies may be authorized by the time of the event. Those wishing the latest information about NMC frequencies and times of operation should write directly to TCCM Loren R.

O'Banion at LObanion@d11.uscg.mil .

The public is invited to visit NMC to participate in this event. The unit's Receiver Site, located at 17000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd on the Pt Reyes National Seashore will be open to the public between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Persons wishing to attend must RSVP to (415) 669-2004.

KPH will activate its HF and MF transmitters to participate in this historic event and to give listeners the opportunity to hear three US coast stations on the air - possibly for the last time. KFS will also return to the air on a single frequency.

KPH will transmit on 6477.5, 8642.0, 12808.5 and 17016.5 on HF and on 500 and 426kc on MF. KFS will transmit on 17026.0kc. These frequencies have been made available through the generous cooperation of Globe Wireless, the current owner of the KPH and KFS licenses.

KPH and KFS operators will listen for calls from ships on 6276.0,

8368.0, 12552.0 and 16736.0 on HF and 500kc on MF. Thanks again to Maurice for the info and I know there are many of you out there who will appreciate the information.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

EI5EM. Just a quick note to say that my callsign was incorrectly listed in the new members column in Key Note some issues ago. I was given a welcome as an Italian callsign rather than my Irish call EI5EM. Hope all is correct in the database for me?

Just back from Dayton where I had a great time. I am fortunate that my brother lives in Michigan and he is only 230 miles from Dayton. I kill two birds with the one stone every year. Didn't get around all the flea market though as it rained cats and dogs on the Saturday when I scheduled the outdoor walkabout.

I bought a beauty of a key. It has a bakelite cover with the following markings KEY. MORSE. TYPE D REF No. 10F/7373. Beneath these markings are the letters A and M with a small crown between them. This is followed by SERIAL No. which is blank. Anybody got any ideas of its origins? Yup you are correct in the listings Tony and I guess the old peepers were playing up again. Hi. **DL1CC.** Wolf includes QSLs from SO1CC/P (JO84AG), Isle of Wolin (EU132) and 8S6UEA for the Esperanto World Congress from Gotenburg. He is also hoping to be active from the UK from 3 August. **M0TOP** queries the preferred frequencies for the slower stuff. Well, 80m is best really - establish QSO and QSY up the band (3.65 plus). Not trying to discourage the slow boys from using 40m but it is a very restricted band so keep 'em short and sweet. For the HF bands, .058 on 20, 15 and 10mtrs but again, QSY up when QSO established. 30m is also a good band for QRS and, when they are open, 17 and 12 mtrs. **G3JJG.** Disappointed not to find anyone active for the Sprint event. Guess the state of the bands put most of them off Gerry. **G4RFS.** Stan drops me a line from his hospital bed after the lower part of his body became

paralysed. "For a golfer" he says, "it is the ultimate indignity". Sincerely hope that the wheelchair is not the last word Stan though he quips that under those circumstances, Radio will take preference. **G3LPS.** Eric refers to "STENDEC" (G0FVS) and recalls a programme detailing the find of human bones in an Andean glacial scrub thought to be the remains of the bomber Stardust. The Lancasters R1115/T1154 hardly produced the cleanest signal and there's a close relationship between Stardust and Stendec. **G3RFH.** Ken surrounded by unopened boxes in his 'new' 100yr old QTH got his priorities right by erecting a doublet. Lost one end but managed to keep going with mag loop. Come on Ken.. get those boxes sorted mate. Hi. **2E0AIZ.** Harks back to when he was teaching a bunch of scouts in Bahrain. Most of 'em did 20wpm. They could not read English but everything came through as one long word. **G3DOV.** Inactive since Oct due to broken halyard from pole and jammed pulley at top of tower. Tower climbing for registered blind octogenarian frowned upon but hope to be active asap.

KKI AND THE MAGLOOP

After all the interest shown I thought the least I could do was to reproduce this rather blocky jpg file showing the main structure of the 80/40m loop. Judging by the variable, the loop was in its early stages when this picture was taken. Scruffy individual ain't he?



Whoops! I almost ran out of space again. Hi. Enjoy the summer wx folks and hope old Sol mends his manners soon. 73/88 and stay sober de Geo



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

AUGUST 2003

GREETINGS

Old Sol has clearly been suffering some sort of gastric problem for the last few months and whilst we can expect the atrocious band conditions to persist for a while yet, there is optimism abroad and indeed, some unexpected openings have been evident on 30m, 15m and 17m whilst 40m continues to throw up its share of DX though sadly at a time when most of us are between sheet.

The hot conditions caused me to give up any idea of gaining anything like a decent period of sleep on a few occasions last month so, bog-eyed and perhaps a little grumpy, I found myself sitting at the rig at such impossible hours as 0400 where I confess I spent more time listening to some squeaky DX than actually operating. They were however eye-opener times. The number of transatlantic signals heard on 40m in QSO with both North American and EU locations made a delightful and encouraging change to the frying bacon and other unwelcome sounds found during more civilized hours. Could even change habits and join the early to bed, early to rise brigade. Hi. When working, I usually arrived home between 0430 and 0530 and at that hour especially during the time of the year when dawn occurred, I would frequently find myself on the business end of a traffic queue from JA, ZL, VK and other tasty stuff. Ah well. The penalties of being a professional layabout are now being paid.

THOSE UPSIDE DOWN FOLKS

*Gudday all,
We now have a FISTS Club national station in Australia thanks to the efforts of Chris VK2MQX who is the trustee and QSL manager.
Please record our two stations as:
ZL6FF-FISTS Down Under New Zealand-#09600
(Note name change for standardisation)
VK2FDU-FISTS Down Under Australia-#09610
73 de ZL2AOH.*

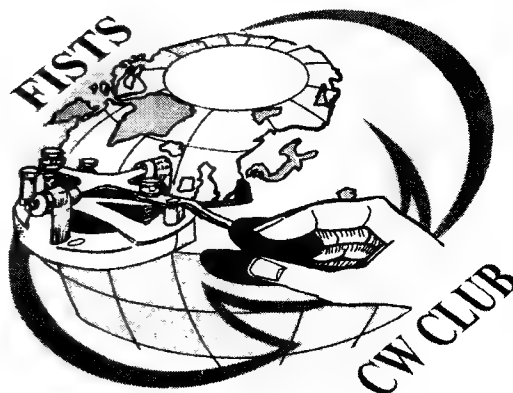
Well, that was an one unexpected result considering it was only last month I was reporting on the seeming reluctance of the Australian authorities and even more of a surprise that they were kind enough to allocate appropriately to 'FISTS DOWN UNDER'. Before you all start asking, yes! VK2FDU like ZL6FF, KN0WCW and GX0IPX/MX5IPX are regarded as 'national' club stations and as such are valued at 5 points as opposed to the 3 points for other club stations. Dennis, our awards manager is gonna be even busier soon.

THE LOGO

Early during our foundation, G4XVF, Tony (now GM4XVF since he has taken to watching seals and long horned cattle on some obscure Scottish island) bent a few arms at his works location and a very handsome logo was forthcoming from a professional designer.

Some of our earlier members found this logo on their membership certificates at quite a price since at that time I had no facilities for colour printing on the hoof as it were and the resultant stock was more than a tad expensive. I spent quite a few hours re-touching it and making a few changes. As a consequence, the logo itself remained forgotten until Tony himself asked if I could dig it up. This I did and not only has it been applied to the new Ladder certificates etc., but the general club call sign as opposed to those which I keep separate for FISTS QSOs. Orders for QSLs may incorporate this logo instead of the normal one if desired - there is no additional charge.

For the snail mail recipients, I am sorry about the greyscale image but I am at the mercy of the publisher package which is used for Keynote for colour to greyscale conversion but I can assure you that it is **very** colourful. The stylised lightning bolts are red whilst the remainder comprises blue, yellow green and black. Who's a clever boy then?



MX5IPX

The callsign is still active and for those who would like to run a period pse LMK. It is in use rarely these days and considering that it attracts 5 century points, this is something of a shame. I have been urged by many members to activate the national club call for the ladder but on the few occasions that I have actually had time to get on air, the bands have been NBG to say the least. What is needed here is someone who is prepared to forego an interest in the ladder to air GX0IPX/P on Sundays to reduce the incidence of self inflicted hair loss. It goes without saying that since the flag is being flown, a reasonable standard of sending would be expected but apart from this, no problems.

Sunday I regret is usually an extremely busy day for me - processing of new members, pages of deferred emails to answer etc., take up a great deal of my time so I must ask you to take this into consideration when the ladder is at the forefront of your mind.

LOOP THE LOOP

Thanks for the pic of me in Keynote with the magloop ! You were correct it was in its early stages of development. That capacitor has since been replaced with a 1500pf one and although it is a transmitting variable the spacing is still a little close for a magnetic loop ant. However it now covers 160-80-40 mtrs and with an output of 60 watts. Recent QSOs on 160 cw have included CT1ILT, OZ1BXN, LA5HE and some G stations so I am very pleased with the results. The article I wrote for the RSARS is now available on my website and has been updated, it is in PDF format and can be downloaded from:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/g4kki.bill/LOOP.pdf> for part one

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/g4kki.bill/magloop.pdf> for part two.

Ok cheers for now Geo, 73 deBill G4KKI FISTS 7709

YOUTHFUL WRINKLIES

Ralph, ZL2AOH, heard VK3BW in QSO stating that his age wa 93 which set him wondering.... does he have any members senior to him in terms of age?

Well, G8NT may be a close runner. Born 1910 he is the only representative of that year within the database though some of 'em skip the question 'Age' on the app form. Incidentally, I enter the given age and the dBase programme converts this into a year format for me. How lazy can you get?

HELP

Jim, GM0NTR, is short of a knob for the WT8AMP key. Could be he lost the original in a pot of paint since he has been QRL applying his artistic talents to the shack/ bedroom.

Address is 17b High St., OBAN, PA34 4BG

IT'S GOTTA BE A SCAM!

I hasten to point out that unless specifically requested, I do not publish phone numbers or email addresses. Be that as it may, The address he used: fists@m0ecs.waitrose.com has only ever appeared in Keynote following his request for information on accented characters. This address was never used for sending email and M0ECS generated the address which was indeed published in Keynote specifically for response to his question. There are some pretty sharp operators on the internet and one of 'em accessed this address with a marvellous offer.

Describing himself as the first son of the late Josep (Desire) Mobutu the former President of Zaire, he confided that he had secretly shipped out some \$37m in banknotes and needed to launder them so that he could gain access to his rightful assets.

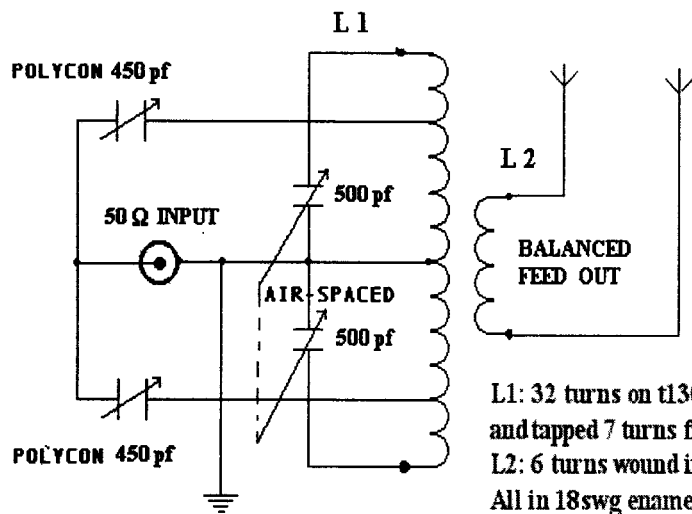
Steve was offered a tempting percentage on completion of the deal of course.

I seem to remember that this caper (or at least one identical to it) was featured on a TV documentary not too long back and needless to say involved the depositing of a significant sum in an account to which the fraudster would have access. I will not insult your intelligence by suggesting what happens after that but the moral here is that if you are going to invite response via the internet from **any** source, then take precautions. Do as Steve did and generate a one-time-only address and after a reasonable time, destroy it.

It is extremely unlikely that anyone deliberately circulated this address but because Keynote is freely available on our web-site as are countless other similar publications on any number of sites, then without imposing access rights (neither necessary or desirable) it is advisable to take sensible precautions.

A considerable volume of spam finds it's way into my inbox with content varying from commercial hype through gambling and girlie pics to organ enlargement but these days, a neat little freebie programme pre-scans my mailbox permitting me to delete or bounce the junk. It is highly likely that my address is copied from the E-Keynote. A timely reminder perhaps from Steve - **never** reply to these messages and, if there is an option to 'unsubscribe' **never ever** use it. You are only telling the perpetrator that your address is active which is just what he wants to know!

Talking of intrusion, for over a week now, the telephone rings between 1600 and 1800 - right in the middle my after dinner zizz. When answered, there is no response and the line is disconnected. I think it could be logically generated. BT's 1471 reports "caller withheld their number". Anybody got any ideas about this?



Z-MATCH AND BALANCED FEEDERS.

Our Jimmy, G3HBN, may well have been busy re-inventing the wheel since I am sure I have seen the layout overleaf described in a publication somewhere.

However, it all starts with the problem of an unequal current in the legs of the feeder.

The normal Z-Match has a link winding at the earthy end of the coil meaning that on leg of the feeder is nearer ground than the other which causes the difference in distribution.

He is feeding an inverted "V", apex about 40' agl and employing some 40' of open wire feeder.

With the arrangement shown, he gets a bit more antenna current for a start off but, more importantly, has noticed that on 15m the noise level is much lower than the conventional Z-Match.

Its loads of fun to tune and somewhat more time consuming, but once tuned, note the knob settings because there are three of 'em.

ALTERNATIVE TAG STRIPS

Remember those old tag strips - wouldn't dream of using 'em these days even if I had some in the junk box. Long long ago when I was broadcasting slow morse on 2m I needed to construct a fairly complex switch box incorporating amplifier, numerous switches, antenna relays and other items. In those days, I did have tag strips but a better alternative turned out to be an ancient octal valve base glued to the board. Worked a treat! Also, to save etching a board, a friend used to glue ICs feet up on a piece of copper surfaced board so he could solder connections directly. The board acted as a pretty good heat-sink too. Not an original idea but certainly worth remembering. The same guy used this technique for transistors, capacitors, resistors and what have you because he had a hot glue gun to hand and couldn't think of any other use for it. His boards looked a mess but everything he built worked every time.

| CALL. | POINTS |
|--------|--------|
| G4LHI | 309 |
| G4AQZ | 214 |
| M5ABN | 181 |
| G3VQO | 179 |
| M0AYI | 152 |
| G0MRH | 151 |
| M5AGL | 110 |
| HB9CHE | 91 |
| M0RHB | 86 |
| OH7QR | 84 |
| M0DRK | 81 |
| M0CMQ | 61 |
| 0BRY | 24 |
| G0SOP | 24 |
| GW0SGG | 17 |
| M3XGQ | 16 |
| G0XAH | 10 |
| M3GBT | 7 |

When will these conditions improve? Soon we hope, still the hot weather seems to last.

Well done to Glenn M0AYI for topping the June returns.

I have received several inquiries from new members who are not sure about our Ladder and the other contests. I will be pleased to supply full details of all the ladder rules and contest info to any member. Just because the ladder is half way through it doesn't mean a log can not be submitted from a new/any member. Please do join in, you will find all those taking part will be only too happy to help, the Ladder is meant to be fun as well as competitive.

The contests details are also to be found under our web page - www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/ STRAIGHT KEY WEEK. No2.

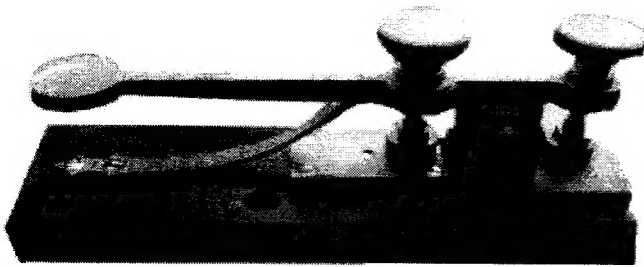
From 0001UTC on 7th September to 2359UTC on 13th September 2003.

All licensed frequencies except the WARC bands. Scoring 3 point for a club station, 2 points for a club member and 1 point for a non member worked. Exchanges; RST/NAME/QTH/FIST No or Non Mem/DAY No. NOTE Sunday is day 1, Monday is day 2 and so on to Saturday as day 7. This allows duplication of working the same station once on different days. All entrants must have used a straight key for all QSO's, the worked station does not have to have used a straight key. LOGS to include DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or NM/DAY/POINTS. ALL entries to be received by 27th SEPTEMBER 2003. I hope to be out and about mobile during this week and will be pleased to give points to all stations taking part, PLEASE do try and support this event. 73 fer now and good hunting de Bob M5AGL.

ORNAMENT OR WHAT?

My apologies for the quality of the image which came to me from GTUX at 72dpi. It is a copy of the Vail key being produced by Kent though on Chris' own admission, you need to have undertaken a serious Charles Atlas course to use it because there's no tension adjustment and judging by that spring, the original must have been developed for lumberjacks cum telegraphists.

Note the knob - or rather the absence of one - and if this brute was ever used for cathode keying there must have been a queue at the first aid post for burned fingers. Hi. Make an unusual paperweight though and if you would like one, get in touch with Chris.



MYSTERY SOLVED

The query by EI5EM last month was rapidly answered by a number of members among whom was G3TUX, the guy he bought the key from originally. It is a RAF type 'D' key and amongst others, 9V1VV chipped in adding a structural description and pointing out that he replaced the original tapered bush bearings with sealed roller bearing units. Great idea but if you plan to donate it to your grandkids with a view to augmenting their retirement funds when the time comes, not to be recommended. Chris, G3TUX says that he was sure he had told Tony at the time of purchase that it was the standard RAF ground station key adding that none of 'em ever had a serial number inscribed in the space so thoughtfully provided by the manufacturers

I am now somewhat embarrassed myself since I had one of these in my hands for quite some time before 'loaning' it to a ham in Blackburn - it has never been returned. Hi. Talking of which, Chris answers a query by G3XVF saying that DJ2BW still makes the ETM9C0G-X3 (the version sans paddles) but he no longer stocks this item having thrown in his lot 100% behind Logikey products. Both Samson and Logikey use the Superkeyer v3 chip.

NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 09836 | JL3SZK | Yoshi | 09837 | M0PVP | Brian |
| 09838 | M0ERG | CLUB | 09839 | OK1MVD | Jan |

That's a short list this month people. 09838 is the Eagle Radio Club and caretaker is G3MNS.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Not too much paper again this month but I can make a start with **M0VAL** who is having problems with VDU induced migraine attacks so it is back to the old snail mail.

A bouquet for G4KKI who has been most helpful in providing details on his HF mag loop which Bryan has already partially built and is now at the tricky stage of motor v capacitor installation. Flexible couplings come into play here and the design is simple but the devil, like so many projects, is in actually getting down to doing it. **G4SSH**.

I got a super card from the GX0000 activity group and a note showing that over the 16/17 August, they will again be ensconced in the lamp-room of the Scarborough lighthouse with the call GB2SCA for the ILH weekend. A list of likely lighthouse activity (some 400) is available from www.lighthouses.net.au/illw/2003.htm. The Scarborough Activity Group is involved in so many self generated events that it is not easy to keep tabs on them.

G3KUL. Doug recently enjoyed sharing his 80th birthday cake. Took a chance on an 'illegal' indoor antenna for QRP but with little success so he is back to monitoring with the occasional period of activity from the club station. Would the council really have withdrawn breathing privileges if that attic-bound lw were discovered?

M0ANL. Another contributor to the RAF type 'D' key info pointing out that the A(crown)M was Air Ministry. Compton Basset had a class room and benches with rows and rows of 'em. We may not know where they all went to but at least we know were many of 'em came from. Hi.

THE DX STUFF

Aug 4/13, Faroe Islands, OY, QSL DK4ARL
Aug 4/14, Western Samoa, 5W, QSL N1SLNB
Aug 4/18, Cambodia, XU, QSL G3SWH
Aug 5/9, Solomon Islds, H44V
Aug 10/19 Turks & Caicos, VP5
Aug 11/16,, Temotu, H40V
Aug 12/23, Netherlands Antilles, PJ6
Aug 14/21, Iceland, TF
Aug 16/23, Turks & Caicos, VP5
Aug 17/20, Papua New Guinea, P29SI
Aug 20/Sept 03, Dodecanese, SV5

Hope the bands improve for these though with my luck they will remain the same. Still, for all you DX hounds out there, it's worth having a shift.

Speaking for myself, I'll work 'em if they are there but am a little too long in the tooth to be over impressed by rarity. Given a choice between DX and a decent rag-chew it's gotta be the latter. Hi.

SILENT KEY

On 16 July with cancer, Fred, G0CEK.
Notification from Glen, M0AYI but no other
specific info

Also

On 16 July with cancer, Fred, G0CEK.
Notification from Glen, M0AYI but no other
specific info

G4OOS FISTS 00812 - a lapsed member but a
100% cw man - on Saturday 28 June. I am
grateful to Chris, G0OWC for this info.

G5BM AND 5 MHZ

*I had a good illustration of the superiority of Morse
over SSB on 5 MHz which may be of interest to
members.*

*Morning of 5 July though would see if I could work
one of the US hams using 5 spot freqs authorised to
Gen and higher class from 3 July. Max is 50W ERP
and usb telephony only.*

*At 0510 heard few very weak E. Coast stations none
of which were calling CQ.*

*I tried 3 CQs on SSB using the only freq which is
common to both (5403.5 KHz) but no replies. I then
tried CW and was immediately called by W4AUV
who reported 559. There followed a 100% solid ten
minute QSO using cross-mode with his 50W and
centre fed dipole up at 21m.*

*Immediately we finished, I was called by NP4A/M
(Puerto Rico) who asked me to revert to USB and
reported 59 (generous 'S' meter). Again a nice solid
QSO from a caravan using what he called a
screwdriver antenna (whip).*

Can't be bad and Frank has also been active on 17/15m
with QSOs from 9K2HS, A45XR and 53RK.
Yes tks Frank. Ivy back in shoes for short periods now.

ODDS 'N' ENDS

GOHGA Angie, emailed to say despite problems at home
and caring for John she managed to complete her
networking course and scanned a copy of the certificate
for me. Most impressive.

Looking forward to the possibilities of starting on a pro-
gramming course also. Starts with Vis Basic but may
also be able to tackle 3COM or CISCO depending on
whether college gets funding to offer concessions.

High state of security in March for the Queens' opening

of the new college with Stevenage crawling with Police
and Palace security people but Angie managed some
nice photographs of HMQ and Prince Philip.

Bit frustrated at QSL.NET flopping so she moved her
website to <<http://www.morselady.topcities.com/>>. Al-
though she is allocated 150M of webspace, there is a limit
of 900K per file and 20mb bandwidth per week.

Subscribers to the VHF reflector now stands at 80 with
a recent influx of US and French members. Asks me to
remind you URL for reflector is <<http://groups.yahoo.cm/group/VHF-CW>> and her homepage is <<http://www.morselady.topcities.com/vhfcwpage.htm>>.

Currency questions.

No names not pack drill but I am still having problems
with DX members who fail to appreciate that there is a
significant difference between British Pounds Sterling
and US Dollars.

PA5BM. Concerned about sending subs in Euro/US\$
approached the bank and learned that he could transfer
funds directly to the FISTS account. I chased this

FINALE

Look out for W1AW. Not too conspicuous on this side
of the puddle but if you do happen upon the ARRL HQ
station make a point of asking because it now carries a
FISTS number. Think Nancy probably had a finger in
this particular pie!

Home brew is best!

Well this the conclusion I came to recently **Home brew
is best!** Well this the conclusion I came to recently
when, on the usual shopping trip for eatables, I thought
to save myself a chore and got a pre-prepared Biriani.

Someone had obviously slipped up and I felt the meal
removed some 10 microns of material from the roof of
the mouth and ventilated the upper digestive tract. Grabbed
a glass of water and swear there was a distinct hiss and
a puff of steam on contact. Should have whipped it back
to the vendor (a big name supermarket chain in Blackburn)
but it would have cost half its value in bus fare and at
least an hour in time.

On the next trip, I spoke to a girl at the checkout and it
seems a few meals that day were returned as overspiced.
Grrrrr! My luck. Like to adjust the W3DZZ since it is
distinctly floppy in this hot wx but I know that if I do so,
it will probably part under the strain when temperatures
return to normal. Meanwhile it must be many inches
overlength.

73/88 people.
Have fun and cul de Geo

***APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** For ALL awards, send the name of the award, a log of the required info and dupe sheet (check the individual award requirements) and your mailing info to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. *Do not submit QSLs.* There is no charge to FISTS members in good standing, but stamps are appreciated.

***VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY? W3GR,** The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or email w3gr@arrl.net <w3gr@arrl.net> We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page <http://www.fists.org>

***GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BUREAU?** Send Self-Addressed-Stamped -Envelopes and FISTS member cards, for both DX and USA FISTS members, to Stan Reas, K4UK, at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121. On your SASE's put your callsign in big letters in the top left corner. Detailed info on how to use the Bureau and a list of FISTS who do not want to receive cards via the Bureau are on the FISTS web page or available from Stan by email (k4uk@rev.net) or postal mail upon request.

***SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB3 2LZ England, he will get in touch with them and send them a DX application.

***PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, is \$10/year American cash. Non-European (Africa, Japan, etc.) FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo.

***GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself, with your face about the size of a quarter, to Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

***RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE?** The Keynote is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp MI 48038 or at ikott@compuserve.com. The tapes is read by Roger Cameron, N8KV and copied and distributed by Ken W8ROG.

***GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** to give at a local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016. email: kk5na@quadj.com

***FIND THE WEB PAGE?** <http://www.FISTS.org> **Web page suggestions?** Contact Bill at KK4KF@LizardCop.com

***ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN. A scan of the club card is on our web page <http://www.fist.org>

***ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

***IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS?** Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

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C2C Event - September

Peoria Hamfest - September 19 - contact WZ8C if you are going to be there

Your renewal date as of July 15 2003 is on your label.

